

Life in Lexington 1946-1995

by Alice Hinkle and Andrea Cleghorn



*Celebrating the 125th Anniversary
of Lexington Savings Bank*



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Life in Lexington

By Alice M. Stone

Author of "The Story of the
Life of the Rev. John C. Stone,
D.D., and his Family,"
and "The Story of the Rev. John C. Stone,
D.D., and his Family,"

Alice M. Stone

Lexington, Mass.
The Lexington Press

1900

Copyright, 1900, by Alice M. Stone

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This book is dedicated with great respect and affection to the Lexington residents past, present and future whose ordinary — and often extraordinary — lives, achievements, courage and vision add layers to the town's rich history.

*Life in
Lexington*

1946 through 1995

by

Alice Hinkle and Andrea Cleghorn

Published by
Lexington Savings Bank
in observance of its
125th anniversary
1871-1996

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Acknowledgments

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The first acknowledgment goes to the officers and directors of Lexington Savings Bank. They decided to mark the bank's 125th anniversary by giving a present back to Lexington and its citizens, whose patronage helped the bank grow and thrive.

Bank officials, including president and Chief Executive Officer William Gaddis Jr., Vice President John Fallon and Marketing Director Stacy Sheehan, have given us enthusiastic support and cooperation and made it clear any proceeds beyond publication costs will be used to fund community projects.

The information in this book was compiled from a variety of sources. The primary resource was past issues of the Lexington Minuteman newspaper, with some of the newsy observations taken from columns of Alan G. Adams, longtime Minuteman editor/publisher. Current Lexington Minuteman Executive Editor Richard Lodge has graciously given permission to use material from past newspapers and to reproduce photos from the paper's archives. Other sources of written material and photos include annual town reports, the Lexington Historical Society, Cary Memorial Library and its Worthen Collection, the Lexington Company of Minute Men, the town's Engineering Department, photographers Clifford B. Goodie, Albert G. Hale, Ray Barnes and Ted Polumbaum and residents William J. Dailey Jr., Chris Venier and Jean Winchester.

We thank Cary Library Director Carol Mahoney for her patience and all the Cary reference librarians who made us feel welcome and offered assistance and encouragement. Special thanks to Julie Triessl for her enthusiasm and for combing through copy and photos.

We are truly indebted to Battle Green Guide director and invaluable source S. Lawrence Whipple. A former Lexington Historical Society historian and archivist, he generously shared his collection of materials and information, wise insights, photos and countless hours of his time in checking our information and copy. Author Thomas Sileo offered items he found during his research along with valuable comments.

We appreciate the attention given the project by Historical Society Executive Director George Comtois and by Society President F. David Wells Jr. and past Minuteman Editor Anne Scigliano, both Lexington Savings Bank directors. We thank Susan Fisher for tracking down elusive details; Mary Prince for editing assistance and quips that made us smile; staff at the town clerk's, manager's and selectmen's offices for answering frantic queries; Lexington Minuteman office coordinator Pat Connor for keeping her keen eye out for photo possibilities, and many others who have given us precious bits of information. We also thank our families, friends and employers for their patience, understanding and excitement about this project.

A.H. and A.C.

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LEXINGTON, MA 02173

Bank, town history intertwine

In February, 1871, a group of prominent Lexington citizens petitioned the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact a bill authorizing the incorporation of "Lexington Savings Bank to be established in the town of Lexington with all the powers ... applicable to savings banks and institutions for savings."

The petition was duly approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor Claflin, and on March 11, 1871, the bank was incorporated. The bank opened for business on June 3, 1871, in the front room of the home of Captain William D. Phelps. Fred G. Babcock became the first customer of the bank with a deposit of \$6 to passbook No. #1, which is still in the possession of the bank. (Mr. Babcock closed his account on June 4, 1884, with a withdrawal of \$5.01; luckily the bank had substantially more deposits by that time and was no longer dependent on Fred's account.)

Since that date, the history of the town of Lexington and the history of Lexington Savings Bank have been closely intertwined. Therefore, on behalf of the bank, its directors and its staff, we are proud to take the opportunity to present this book to the town and to our customers.

During its first 75 years (1871-1946), the bank persevered and grew. Like the town of Lexington, it survived recessions, including the great depressions of the late 1870's and 1930's, and wars, including the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. By 1946, the bank and the town had changed with the times, as the United States of America shifted from an inward-looking country looking back on the Civil War to a major world-wide power that had just successfully fought and won a vast world war spread across six continents. By 1946 the town had grown from 2,337 inhabitants to 14,452; the bank had grown to over \$4 million in assets and 11,000 depositors by serving the needs of its residents and those of the surrounding towns.

As 1946 dawned, the town of Lexington was faced with the challenge of employing and housing returning veterans and educating their children. The great American post-war expansion was about to begin and with it came the "baby boom." Lexington Savings Bank was ready to support this growth with savings accounts and mortgage loans.

In 1996, Lexington Savings Bank is still ready and willing to support the needs of Lexington and surrounding towns, now as a full-service bank.

Life in Lexington

Lexington Savings Bank offers these services:

For Individuals:

Checking Account Programs
World Wide ATM Service
Savings and Investment Programs
Retirement Plans
Consumer Loan Programs
Mortgage Programs
Home Equity/Home Improvement Programs

For Businesses:

Commercial Deposit Accounts
Small Business Loans
Commercial Real Estate Loans

The bank has also grown in size, as assets on March 31, 1996 totaled \$423 million, loans \$260 million and deposits \$260 million.

From 1904 to today, the bank's main office has been located in a building at 1776 Massachusetts Ave. in Lexington Center. However, the two-story granite and brick building of today bears little resemblance to that of 1904. The most drastic change occurred in 1950 when the building was gutted by a major fire. As a result, the third floor was removed, the building lengthened and the front renovated to close to the present appearance.

On May 1, 1976, the bank opened its first branch at 421 Lowell St. in the Countryside section of Lexington. In 1988, the bank's staff outgrew the main office, and a lending center was established at 57 Bedford St. in Lexington. The year 1993 was one of rapid expansion as the Bank opened a branch at the B r o o k h a v e n



Early 1900's photo of Lexington Savings Bank , the third floor no longer exists due to extensive damage from the fire of 1950.

Life in Lexington

Continuing Care Retirement Community in Lexington and in the town of Bedford. In addition, on Dec. 23, 1993, the bank acquired Suburban National Bank of Arlington and expanded with two more offices in Arlington and another in Burlington. Then, in 1995, while remaining its own community bank, Lexington Savings Bank affiliated with the Federal Savings Bank in Waltham. Each bank maintains its original identity while joining forces in a common holding company-Affiliated Community Bancorp, Inc.

Over the past 50 years the bank has reached a multitude of milestones, some widely significant, some important only to the bank. In addition to the fire, four items from the early 1950s, proved particularly noteworthy.

On June 1, 1952, the bank became an authorized agent for Savings Bank Life Insurance, a status it still holds today. That event was marked by a half page ad of congratulations from a neighboring bank, something that you would not expect the competition to do in this day and age!



The Great Fire of 1950 left the Bank without the third floor and major renovations were in order, including a whole new front.

The year 1954 marked the retirement of Edwin Worthen who served the Bank in various capacities for 47 years from 1909-1956.

Also in 1954, Leon Bateman was elected a corporator of the bank. (Roughly 50 years later, his granddaughter, Cindi (Bateman) Carlson was appointed operations manager of the bank's main office.)

In 1955, the bank became an approved Federal Housing Authority (FHA) lender in order to better serve the housing needs of the town.

For more information on the bank's history, we invite you to read the remainder of this book. We hope that you enjoy reminiscing with us.

Lexington Savings Bank

Life in Lexington

The Last 50 Years

Lexington Savings Bank Presidents

James Stuart Smith 1946-1951
Edwin D. Worthen 1952-1956
Richard P. Cromwell 1957-1969
Edward D. Duncan 1970-1975
Ronald E. Seested 1976-1985
William G. Gothorpe 1986-1992
Timothy J. (Ted) Hansberry 1992-1995
William J. Gaddis, Jr. 1995-Present

Lexington Savings Bank Chairman

John McLachlan 1971-1977
Burton Stuart 1978-1985
Robert Gary 1986-1994
Fred C. Bailey 1994-To Present

Lexington Savings Bank Assets

1946	\$ 4,493,709
1950	\$ 5,213,315
1955	\$ 8,603,247
1960	\$ 13,879,549
1965	\$ 28,536,253
1970	\$ 41,303,188
1975	\$ 64,845,924
1980	\$ 96,701,191
1985	\$152,209,221
1990	\$203,739,000
1995	\$423,000,000

1996 Lexington Savings Bank Directors

Fred C. Bailey, Chairman
William J. Gaddis, Jr., President & CEO
Kendrick G. Bushnell
Robert W. Connelly
Edwin B. Cox
Bernard R. Horn, Jr.

Donald Jenkins, Jr.
Gerald L. McLeod
David M. Patterson
Amy G. Samoylenko
Anne R. Scigliano
F. David Wells Jr.

Gerald W. Howell

Introduction

In 1946, on Lexington Savings Bank's 75th anniversary, its treasurer Edwin B. Worthen compiled "A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts 1620-1946." The book, which is a rich historical resource, traces the town's history from the time Lexington was Cambridge Farms and Massachusetts residents were loyal British subjects. It continues through the Revolution, a painful civil war, two world wars, a technological revolution and social upheaval. Trying to sum it up in a few paragraphs or even a few pages would be a daunting task, but reading it again would be a wonderful way see how much Lexington has changed yet how many of the values and ideals cherished here centuries ago remain today.

In a letter Worthen wrote, which was opened on the bank's 100th anniversary in 1971, he urged that the chronological history be updated periodically — with photos, if possible. Half a century after the original calendar history debuted, Worthen's hope becomes a reality with the publication of "Life in Lexington, 1946-1995." This period is one of extraordinary change and growth, a time in which Lexington doubled its population and blossomed from a sleepy village to a bustling suburb with all the attendant progress and problems.

During this era, the post-WWII building boom took shape. School populations grew, then dwindled. Many open spaces were developed; others were preserved. Route 128 split the town in two, bringing opportunities and concerns. Many new businesses moved into town. Some old businesses closed and farms continued to disappear. Residents decided against a major shopping center. In 1971 the Battle Green became the backdrop for a demonstration against involvement in the Vietnam War, a protest that resulted in the state's largest mass arrest up to that time.

The town continued to honor its proud Revolutionary heritage — hosting magnificent 1950 and 1975 celebrations on milestone anniversaries of the events of April 19, 1775. Meanwhile, everyday life was being shaped by forces inside and outside town: the domestic and international political climate, natural disasters and human tragedies.

It would take volumes to list all the people, places and events of importance in the last half century. This book aims merely to hit high points and offer snapshots that give a flavor, a sense of the town during this period. As former Minuteman editors, we were on hand for many events the book describes. We hope reading about them opens a window on the near past that will enrich the present and add new dimensions to the way people

Life in Lexington

look at the town. Most of all, we hope it will be a starting point to dig deeper and learn more about the times and the people who have shaped Lexington.

We suggest beginning with the Cary Library booklet, "Guide to the Study of Lexington," the library's Worthen Collection and microfilm collection of Lexington Minuteman newspapers. Other excellent sources include Charles Hudson's "History of Lexington," the four volumes of the "Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society," "A Century of Photographs" by Beverly Allison Kelley, Tom Sileo's "Historical Guide to Lexington Open Space" and "History of the Battle Green."

To conserve space, some frequently used words are abbreviated — including Dept. for Department, Supt. for Superintendent, Mass. Ave. for Massachusetts Ave., DPW for the Department of Public Works, LHS for Lexington High School. We also reluctantly assume organizations named are from Lexington unless otherwise noted, for example, Lexington Historical Society is referred to simply as Historical Society; and we use informal (and briefer) names of places when possible, for example Cary Library for Cary Memorial Library.

Prologue

This look at Lexington begins when the town was on the threshold of momentous change. The bitter conflict that had dominated life for nearly half a decade had come to an end.

In Lexington, people began gathering in the Center soon after the surrender of Japan was announced Aug. 14, 1945. They brought bells, whistles, horns, bugles, tin cans, anything that made noise. Impromptu parades of cars with empty ash cans tied to the rear bumpers added to the din. The following day, several local service stations reported many calls to replace car horn relays. The relays were apparently burned out by the prolonged honking that greeted the return of peace.

As 1945 was ending, Lexington was flirting with history again. Boston was in the running for the general site of the United Nations headquarters and Lexington had been suggested as a most appropriate address for this international organization. The town was coping with post-war shortages and pent-up needs for housing. Lexington's Veterans Service Committee formed a group to assist returning soldiers in finding jobs, urging local employers to call with positions to fill.

The stage is set. Let's turn the clock back to 1946.

1946

Population (1945 census) - 14,452

Valuation - \$22,324,408

Fire alarms* - 916

School enrollment - 2,400

Tax rate - \$33/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 164

Dog licenses - 1,095

Building permits - 333

*Including bell and still alarms, mutual aid and ambulance runs.

January — Fifty-five house lots have been sold in Follen Hill Estates and 50 more home sites are planned on Follen and Richard roads, Locust and Lexington avenues. The development began after Follen Road was widened and paved from Lexington Avenue to Marrett Road and utilities added.

February — Since April 19 falls on Good Friday, groups agree Patriots Day activities will be limited to a sunrise flag raising, memorial exercises and possibly band music to welcome Paul Revere and William Dawes Jr.

Feb. 7 — Regular transatlantic commercial airplane service begins at Bedford Airport (officially dedicated in 1943 as Laurence G. Hanscom Field).

March 13 — Mrs. Steele Lindsay sights the season's first robins near her Robbins Road home. WBZ-Radio reports the event, having fun with robins/Robbins Road coincidence.

April 1 — Town Meeting approves \$56,000 to buy land for a public parking area between Waltham and Muzzey streets and a public footway to the parking area from Mass. Ave. next to Lexington Savings Bank.

April 1 — Town Meeting approves \$56,000 for land that will create a public parking area between Waltham and Muzzey streets and a public footway to the parking area from Mass. Ave. next to Lexington Savings Bank.

April 11 — After many complaints of stray bullets hitting windows, police are enforcing a bylaw banning firearm discharge within 200 feet of homes or public places. Rifles will be confiscated. Court action awaits two violators.

April 15 — When firefighters in the condemned East Lexington station start up Engine 2, the shaking disturbs a skunk family beneath the rickety floor and the frightened animals deliver a predictable response.

April 20 — Announcer Streeter Stuart, engineer Fred Moriarty and news editor S. Lawrence "Larry" Whipple — all residents — are members of the

Life in Lexington

WBZ Radio special events crew covering the 50th annual Boston Marathon.

May — The Blake Castle property on Meriam Street, Franklin and Somerset roads and Hayes Avenue is sold. The castle was torn down in 1941. The land will be gradually sold to build homes.



Junior high students gather in the cafeteria of the school building they share with senior high students at 1475 Mass. Ave. The room would later serve as the Muzzey Jr. High cafeteria and the Lexington Senior Center dining area. Photo courtesy of Lexington Engineering Dept.

May 2 — More than 250 people honor Edward "Doc" Abell, LHS basketball coach and physical education teacher since 1929.

May 7 — "Foods, Bombs and Public Opinion" is the topic resident Dr. Cecilia Payne Gaposchkin will discuss at the League of Women Voters annual luncheon meeting. The astronomer chairs the Harvard Observatory Forum for International Problems.

May 8-11 — The Lexington Theatre is showing "The Lost Weekend" starring Ray Milland and Jane Wyman and "Hit the Hay" with Judy Canova and Ross Hunter.

May — The historic Fiske Homestead at 70 East St. has been purchased and is being restored. It is known as the Old Pest House because it was the place residents with smallpox were isolated in the 18th century.

May 18 — At a Cary Hall Youth Canteen dance, more than 300 teens playing ping pong and enjoying Cokes, movies and checkers.

May 21 — Crowds watch for six days as the 1720 Stephen Robbins House moves from East Lexington to 1295 Mass. Ave., near Munroe Station. Boston insurance woman Helen Potter bought the house for \$500 and says the move will cost more than \$3,000.

May 30 — A \$6 tax rate increase is a blow to many, especially the business community.

June 6 — Members of the First Baptist Church officially burn the Conwell

Life in Lexington



In 1946, this portion of Mass Ave. was also Route 128. Photo courtesy of Lexington Engineering Dept.

Hall mortgage at a special service.

June 8 — A violent thunderstorm sweeps through town, causing loss of most electricity, in some cases up to a day. Trees fall and live wires make the going dangerous.

June 13 — A single copy of the Lexington Minuteman newspaper is seven cents.

June — Selectmen say only attendants may light fires at the Lincoln Street dump. Even with water piped in, the Fire Dept.

gets called to the dump frequently. Police have prosecuted out-of-town merchants for dumping refuse there.

July — Communicable diseases are on the rise — up 150 to a total of 478 since 1945. The jump is due mostly to measles (56 to 123), mumps (7 to 41) and whooping cough (29 to 62).

July 19 — Lexington's oldest resident, Mrs. Francis (Ellen Conant) Ballard, turns 100 quietly at her son's home on Raymond Street.

July 19 — A marsh fire behind Wellington Lane spreads to a peat bed. Firefighters pump nearby Clematis Brook dry, but the smoldering fire burrows several hundred feet deep in places. The blaze ends July 21 when firefighters use 50 pounds of dynamite to deepen and open the brook channel, providing water for hoses. Smoke abounds in East Lexington.

July 20 — Otis Brown Jr., 15, is the lone local entry in the Suffolk Downs Soap Box Derby race. The winner will compete in the Akron, Ohio, World Championships — the first since the war.

Sept. 14 — The annual Grange Fair offers colorful Cary Hall booths, fresh vegetables, homemade food, the "best in everything" prizes, a fortuneteller, games and a grange supper.

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September — In past months, five homes on Granny Hill (off Meriam Street) have been robbed, once with occupants in their basement rumpus room.

Sept. 22 — A rookie, Little "Tee" Ingram, is the hero as the Essos earn the 1946 town softball league title with an exciting extra-innings playoff win over the Ready team.

Oct. 7 — A Special Town Meeting allows subdividing a portion of the town-owned Poor Farm property off Hill and Cedar streets into lots which World War II vets may buy.

October — WCOP Radio offices move to Boston. A new 5,000-watt transmitter remains on Concord Avenue.

Dec. 19 — Teachers seek a \$450/year cost-of-living increase. The School Committee says "no" but a new plan is being studied.

Dec. 31 — With "tennis on its way back," Parks Supt. John Garrity suggests resurfacing six of the town's 10 asphalt courts. Two clay courts were built during 1946.

Dec. 31 — The town's posture clinic reports 187 children were selected for further examination and treatment following "minute perusal of silhouetteograph pictures taken of every child in grades 3 through 6." The town's dental clinic treats 232 patients.

Dec. 31 — The inspector of slaughtering's report lists 843 head of cattle, 393 calves, 143 hogs, 10 sheep and 22 goats slaughtered. The animal inspector examined: 318 head of cattle, 644 swine, 72 horses and 27 goats.

1947

Population (1945 census) - 14,452

Valuation - \$25,869,682

Fire alarms - 848

School enrollment - 2,413

Tax rate - \$36/ \$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 172

Dog licenses - 1,165

Building permits - 337

Feb. 13 — Town trucks are being painted bright red while the police station, including the cell block, will be a toasty cream.

March 20 — A nonprofit parents' group, which operates Community Nursery School and Kindergarten in part of the Old Belfry Club, buys a two-acre Mass. Ave. lot atop Concord Hill for a new school building. Parents finance this cooperative school and participate in its operation, including assisting teachers.

March 24 — Citing serious overcrowding at Lexington High School (LHS), Town Meeting approves \$85,000 for detailed plans for a new high school. A committee reports that J. Willard Hayden refuses to allow use of property at Lincoln Street and Park Drive for a school as it would interfere with his plans for a town youth center there.

March — Lexington Center stores will be open every Friday until 9 p.m. for shoppers' convenience, the Chamber of Commerce reports.

April 17 — The Middlesex & Boston Street Railway launches a new bus line through Belmont, Arlington and Lexington to Bedford Airport. Fare is 10 cents from Park Avenue in Arlington to the corner of Spring Street and Marrett Road.

April 23 — Police are using "speed traps" to cut down on the increasing number of traffic violations.

April 27 — The annual Arts and Crafts Society exhibition, held at Cary Hall, draws an estimated crowd of 1,200.

May 16 — The famous Trapp Family singers appear at a Cary Hall concert sponsored by Hancock Church's Tandem Club.

May 18 — A Lexington Council of Churches tribute to those who died in WWII features Brahms' "Requiem."

May 19 — Airplane spraying of the insecticide DDT begins to help reduce the numbers of gypsy moths, mosquitoes, flies and other harmful insects. The first two sprayings by Airborne Sprayers Inc. are free of charge.

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May 29 — A Cliffe Avenue man, walking at the Bow Street railroad crossing, dies instantly when he is hit by a train.

May 29 — The appeals board rules that a Wood Street site may be used for educational purposes by MIT (the Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

May 30 — The Lexington Chapter, War Parents of America, dedicates a book memorial fund honoring 53 local men who died in WWII. The memorial at Cary Library will include books, a tablet with 53 names and a display area.

June — A five-year lease between the state and the US Army extends joint use of Bedford Airport (Hanscom Field) to June 1952. Control tower and crash equipment will be shared by the state and the Army Air Forces and Corps of Engineers. The airport, located on more than 500 acres in Bedford, Lincoln and Concord, was purchased as a Boston auxiliary airport in 1941. Joint use began in 1942 and land is later acquired in Lexington.

June 3 — Residents gather in Estabrook Hall to form a nonpolitical, non-partisan Lexington Taxpayers Association.

June 5 — More than 200 people celebrate the silver anniversary of the Lafayette Club, a Catholic women's group.

June 8 — After 60 years on Meriam Street, the Fire Dept. moves into new headquarters at 45 Bedford St.

July 16 — All stores and banks close at 1 p.m. for the first post-war town outing and field day in Beverly. The event, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Lions and Rotary clubs, includes a roast beef dinner.

July — The property at 7 Oakland St. is sold to Adams Press. It was the first structure on that street in 1883.

August — Equipment is being added at the telephone company office on Muzzey Street. There have been 700 new customers since Jan. 1, 1946. Fifty homes are now unable to obtain phones in the local exchange. Cable is being installed to service these residences.



This photo offers a bird's eye view of the Lexington Center area in 1947. Lexington Minuteman photo

Life in Lexington

Aug. 4 — Ye Olde Countryside restaurant, at Woburn and Lowell streets, has reopened with new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Flood. The restaurant will specialize in steaks, lobsters, chicken and duck dinners and luncheons.

August — Vandals wreck two Parker School classrooms and break 60 windowpanes, causing several hundred dollars' worth of damage.

September — Due to buildup of moisture over the summer, the LHS gym floor is badly warped. This swelling has occurred before, but the return to normal is the slowest ever.

Sept. 11 — A drawing determines the order of choice for 20 veterans lots on Hill and Cedar streets, land that was part of the town's Poor Farm property. A week will be allowed for applicants to inspect the properties and pick preferences.

Sept. 29 — A Special Town Meeting appropriates \$107,862, including \$32,362.50 to settle damage claims for taking of the Waltham Street Ryder property for the new high school. Funds are approved to buy an Adams Street site for a new grammar school and to pay the salary of a full-time veterans services director.

Nov. 15 — A 15-year-old boy is accidentally shot and killed on a target shooting trip near the Winchester line. A man was struck by a hunter's stray bullet near Woburn Street a few days earlier. Limits on hunting are debated.

Nov. 27 — Crowds watch as what one observer calls the "most alert LHS football team in history" stops undefeated Concord on Thanksgiving Day.

Dec. 3 — Thieves boldly break into Maienza's Waltham Street clothing shop, taking 80 to 100 men's suits and overcoats worth a total of \$5,000.

Dec. 13 — A High Mass of Requiem is celebrated in Sacred Heart Church for PFC Albert J. Moretti, the first of Lexington's war dead to be returned home. His body arrived Dec. 9 and lay in state in Cary Memorial Hall and Emerson Hall at the East Lexington Library. Lexington veterans provide a military honor guard.

Dec. 23 — Winter's first severe storm leaves six to eight inches of snow. A 74-year-old man drops dead shoveling snow at the WCOP Radio transmitter.

Dec. 26, 27 — A blizzard buries the town. There are no major accidents, but a state of emergency is declared to raise more snow removal funds.

Dec. 31 — During 1947, 71 milk and 14 oleomargarine licenses were issued and 21 head of cattle, 139 hogs, 14 sheep, 2,312 calves and three goats were slaughtered.

1948

Population (1945 census) - 14,452

Valuation - \$27,173,095

Fire alarms - 727

School enrollment - 2,544

Tax rate - \$42/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 242

Dog licenses - 1,290

Building permits - 462

Jan. 7 — The 6 p.m. train carries 850 passengers, a new high for an eight-car commuter train.

Jan. 9 — The Board of Appeals grants permits to build prefabricated homes at 10 and 12 Middleby Road, the first time this type of structure has been approved in town.

Jan. 22 — Marcia W.A. Dane opens the Lexington Employment Bureau and Youth Counseling Services at 1736 Mass. Ave.

Jan. 23 — The LHS basketball team chalks up its 18th straight victory over Concord in the last 10 years. The LHS band, under Don Gillespie, makes its basketball game debut.

March 2 — A large delegation goes to Beacon Hill to oppose a cemetery planned for Minute Man Golf Course land on the Concord Turnpike. The private cemetery would largely serve Somerville and Cambridge residents but would be open to all. (Both the House and Senate later reject the proposal.)

March 22 — Activities formerly under Parks Dept. jurisdiction, including playground and swim programs, will now be administered by a Recreation Committee.

April 1 — Town Meeting approves a \$61,000 renovation of Hancock School, which was built in 1891. Members also appropriate funds for a new elementary school and vote against parking meters in the Center.

April 12 — About 300 Manor section residents ask selectmen for a bus line to travel up Simonds Road, Burlington and Hancock streets to the Center. Selectmen later say "no."

April 15 — The Lexington Police Relief Association holds its annual ball in Cary Hall.

April 19 — The largest crowd since 1925 marks the 173rd Battle of Lexington anniversary. Gov. Robert Bradford marches in the parade and

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guests are here to open a national Security Bond Drive and Amvets "Peace Through Preparedness" campaign. Coinciding with Paul Revere's 4:30 p.m. arrival, a jet plane is scheduled to begin a "Modern Ride of Paul Revere," passing over the Battle Green and Minute Man Statue in Concord.

May 3 — Selectmen complete arrangements to install modern, brighter street lights in the Center, replacing 43 old lamps.

May — About 1,700 residents get free X-rays through a town tuberculosis prevention project.

May 25 — Bids for the largest bond issue in Lexington's history, totaling \$1.11M, are opened. Of the total, \$360,000 are war bonds, \$250,000 are water bonds and \$500,000 are bonds for construction of a new elementary school.

June 14 — The School Committee names the new elementary school between Adams Street and Colony Road the Fiske School after a family prominent in early town history.

June 19 — John Packard, LHS track captain, brings the town its first New England championship, winning the 440-yard competition at Exeter, N.H.

June 25 — The baseball game between the Lexington Town Team and the Waltham City Club is played at Center Playground under floodlights for the first time in history.

July 3 — Firefighter George Whiting, 52, is killed instantly in a 30-foot fall from an aerial ladder while he carries a hose to the roof during a fire at the Cary Estate on Cary Avenue.



Mrs. Hollis (Helen Noyes) Webster, 1960 Mass. Ave., will open her famous herb garden Aug. 17 to benefit Radcliffe College's 70th anniversary fund. Guides will give garden tours. Lexington Historical Society archives

July — The health board grants licenses to John Alabiso to keep 500 chickens and to Anthony Sanseverino for 25 chickens.

July — A 290-foot swath is cut through North Lexington for a high-tension line to meet growing power demands.

July — Hancock School remodeling, Fiske School construction and Grant Street reconstruction are changing the face of Lexington.

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August — The Muzzey family presents selectmen with the architect's drawing of the first town hall built on Mass. Ave. in 1846.

Aug. 14 — Five are injured, one seriously, on Waltham Street (also Route 128). The injured are rushed to Symmes Hospital in the town ambulance and Dr. Lawrence Pious' car. The accident halts Route 128 traffic for an hour.

Aug. 25 — The town's worst accident claims three lives as a car crashes into a tree near Fiske's Bluff off Old Mass. Ave.

Sept. 9 — The gate tender at the Meriam Street train crossing pulls the alarm for a fire that threatens the Central Block on Mass. Ave. The two-alarm early morning blaze drives seven families to the street. Three people are burned and four, including a baby, are carried to safety on an aerial ladder.

September — Local schools record their largest elementary and first grade registration, 109 new pupils through grade 7.

Oct. 18 — Town Meeting gives the green light to parking meters and extends the light manufacturing district in the Westview Street area.

Nov. 2 — More than 91% of registered voters — a town record — turns out for the presidential election. Thomas Dewey gets 4,603 votes here. Harry Truman gets 1,795.

November — A map at the police station has pins for each accident with vehicle damage. A red pin with a P means injury and a maroon pin with an F means a fatality. This year the Center shows three to four times more pins than any other area.

Nov. 16 — After a recent car-bike crash, selectmen respond to speeding complaints by seeking stricter speed-limit enforcement and other ways to reduce violations and accidents.

Nov. 19 — The annual Lexington Club Minstrel Show features 70 local stars at Cary Memorial Hall.

Dec. 11 — Archbishop Richard Cushing celebrates a Pontifical Mass rededicating Sacred Heart Church where renovations are complete after 20 years.

Dec. 19 — Cary Hall is filled for the Lexington Club's annual Christmas Party for local children. It includes a marionette show and a late appearance by Santa.

Dec. 27 — Mass. Ave. parking in front of the Central Block reverts to parallel parking instead of angle parking.

1949

Population (1945 census) - 14,452

Valuation - \$28,971,012

Fire alarms - 839

School enrollment - 2,658

Tax rate - \$43/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 265

Dog licenses - 1,347

Building permits - 337

January — The local and county March of Dimes chapters report they assisted 12 Lexington infantile paralysis victims between June 1, 1947, and Dec. 31, 1948.

Jan. 29 — A horse outside a Hancock Street residence breaks away from a carriage, hits heavy traffic in the Center and is caught on Coolidge Avenue.

February — Cary and East Branch library patrons now have their books checked out by new Gaylord Electric Automatic Charging Machines.

February — The LHS hockey team, coached by Tom Moon, wins the Eastern Massachusetts Hockey League championship. Bob Lynah is captain. "Pop" Sherwood and Bob Revou are the top scoring combo.

Feb. 16 — The \$1.8M bid of Vara Construction is the lowest of 10 for the proposed new high school.

February — A new four-story wing is under construction at Symmes Hospital in Arlington. More than 400 babies were born at Symmes last year.

Feb. 20 — Congressman John F. Kennedy speaks at Sacred Heart Church's Holy Name Society communion breakfast.

March — The Appropriation Committee endorses funds for a specially outfitted WWII memorial library at the new high school.

April 4 — Town Meeting ends after unanimous approval to spend \$198,000 for sewers in the Bow Street, Farmcrest and Fair Oaks areas. A hot school lunch program is rejected.

April 26 — The new Lexington Senior High School plan, which failed to get a two-thirds majority at Town Meeting, also meets defeat in a referendum that draws 4,348 voters.

June — Lexington hires the Bartlett Tree Expert Co. to apply spray using DDT to combat a wide variety of insect pests.

Life in Lexington

June 16 — The more than 30-year association between Lexington and Bedford school systems will end next fall when the Bedford Junior High graduating class enters Concord Senior High. Without a new building, LHS facilities are inadequate to handle Bedford pupils. Sports enthusiasts say losing Bedford athletes deals a serious blow to LHS teams.

June 23 — Loralane, a women's specialty shop, opens in the Aldrich Block at Mass. Ave. and Waltham Street.

July 3, 4 — Lexington's Fourth of July celebration, sponsored by the Stanley Hill Post American Legion No. 38, draws large crowds, especially for the Sunday bonfire and Monday fireworks.

July 5 — Gov. Paul A. Dever orders immediate work on relocation of Route 128. Work on 19 miles of the limited access circumferential highway will begin by early fall. In Lexington, Route 128 is located on parts of Waltham Street, Mass. Ave. and Woburn Street. Weekend traffic to north and south shores causes huge summer traffic jams.

July 10 — The town sanitarian analyzes water samples from the Old Res off Marrett Road and reports swimming is safe.

Aug. 8 — While drought conditions continue, town officials urge citizens to use water for essential purposes only from 3 to 11 p.m. Excessive use in late afternoon and evening causes water pressure to drop so low that practically none is available in case of fire.

Aug. 18 — In the past month, 39 swab tests have been taken in local eating places to determine the effectiveness of dishwashing. Three restaurants are found in violation of sanitary rules. Tests are now analyzed in the town's own laboratory.

August — Tests determine 49% of Lexington's elm trees have Dutch elm disease.



Heavy rains cancel the morning Patriots Day parade but skies clear for other April 19 events including a road race and afternoon parade. Nancy Harrington, a lineal descendant of an original Lexington militiaman, unveils a monument opposite the Battle Green honoring those who fought April 19, 1775. Sculptress Bashka Paelf is present. Lexington Company of Minute Men photo

Life in Lexington

Aug. 25 — Lexington's Coordinating Service for Displaced Persons, spearheaded by Marcia Dane, holds a special Church World Service broadcast featuring the town's first displaced person, Miss Jutta Piht. The 21-year-old said she and her family were taken from their home in Estonia, now part of Russia. Her parents and brother remain in a DP camp in Germany. Three more displaced persons will arrive soon from Europe.

August — The Boston & Maine Railroad will discontinue four daily trains on the Bedford-Lexington branch. Three of five round trips between Boston and points on the Lexington branch are well patronized.

August — Lexington is the fourth most active real estate market among area suburban communities of 10,000 or more — 4.35 sales per 1,000 inhabitants.

November — Lexington forms a permanent United Nations Committee with representatives from many local organizations. A series of forums is planned.

Nov. 3 — Fred S. Hartley Jr., Tool Owner's Union president, says the national headquarters at 1802 Mass. Ave. will move to Washington, D.C. This national movement spread under founder and resident Allen Rucker.

Nov. 21 — The town's first armed holdup in years occurs as a Land-O-Lakes Turkey Farm truck driver returns to his truck parked behind the Central Block to find a man holding what appears to be a weapon. The truck driver is ordered to travel up Bedford Street and hand over money. The robber takes the money and jumps into a car that speeds away. Police are investigating.



The old Central Fire Station is moved Jan. 11 from Meriam Street, down Mass. Ave. and Woburn Street, to Hayes Lane where it will house the local VFW Post.

Dec. 8 — The new Cary Library wing is completed and Librarian Ralph Nason asks that all books marked "due September" be returned. Overcharges will be forgiven until Jan. 1.

Dec. 19 — Selectmen ban coasting on all Lexington streets following a child's death the previous winter.

Dec. 31 The new Recreation Committee hires the town's first recreation director, Laurence Bramhall.

Life in Lexington

Dec. 31 — Selectmen discuss “the phenomenal expansion of Lexington” in their annual report. Since the end of the war, 947 permits have been issued for single-family dwellings.

Dec. 31 — Slaughter Inspector Richard Jackson gets an additional title, health sanitarian/slaughter inspector. He reports that inspections were conducted this year at each of the town’s six piggeries and attempts made to eliminate causes of odors and complaints. A total of 71 milk and 15 oleomargarine licenses have been issued and 135 milk samples analyzed. Also, 119 pigs and 31 head of cattle, a single calf and goat were inspected at the slaughterhouse of Joseph Monsignore, 76 Laconia St.

1950

Population - 17,335
Valuation - \$30,659,186
Fire alarms - 896
School enrollment - 2,813

Tax rate - \$43/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 318
Dog licenses - 1,662
Building permits - 614

January — Pleasant Associates of Arlington plans to develop 200 home sites in the 200-acre Whipple Estate, located on Lowell Street in the east corner of Lexington.

Jan. 15 — Lovell Bus Co. begins regular runs from Five Forks in Lexington to Harvard Square via Arlmont Village on the Concord Turnpike.

Jan. 18 — On his third day as a police officer, Lloyd T. Baylis rescues a 12-year-old from her burning home at 15 Woburn St.

January — Chicken thieves operating in Burlington and Woburn may have moved here as Lexington police investigate the theft of 35 Rhode Island hens on Jan. 16 and the theft of 21 White Rock hens on Jan. 17.

February — One hundred boys sign up for the new Lexington Boys Club, open to all boys in town. Marcia Dane will move her employment office to a room behind City Cleaners on Mass. Ave. for a part-time club room.

February — Woman's Home Companion magazine features an article by Lucille (Mrs. Howard) McMahon titled "We Went to School with Our Child." It describes the family's experiences at Community Nursery School.

February — The Boston & Maine Railroad plans to cut the two remaining Saturday round trips between Boston and destinations on the Lexington branch.

Feb. 22 — Five local auto showrooms hold Washington's Birthday open houses: Bradford Motor Co. (Studebaker), Frederic Childs (Ford), Colonial Garage (Buick), F.K. Johnson (Chevrolet and Oldsmobile) and Mawhinney Motor Sales (Chrysler and Plymouth).

March — A grand ball with music by Ruby Newman is one of the social events planned for Patriots Day.

March 20 — It takes Town Meeting less than two hours to approve \$1.67M for projects including construction of a new East Lexington Fire Station, a

toilet facilities building at Center Playground and plans and specifications to renovate Munroe, Adams and Parker schools and the junior high school.

April 17 — Destruction of the old East Lexington Fire Station begins. Men and equipment move to temporary quarters at the Arlex Oil Co. plant while a new station is built on the same Mass. Ave. site the old station occupied since 1838.



The soda fountain is a popular spot as more than 5,000 people attend the Aug. 25, 1950 grand opening of the new Theatre Pharmacy, 1784 Mass. Ave. The business began 16 years ago at 1792 Mass. Ave. Photo courtesy of Chris Venier, Theatre Pharmacy

April — A re-enactment of Paul Revere's Hancock-Clarke House midnight visit is one of the highlights of events honoring the Battle of Lexington's 175th anniversary. The celebration starts April 15 with sports and historical programs and a student Quizdown. There are two balls, and homes from Pelham Road to the Battle Green are illuminated at night by floodlights for the festivities. About 100,000 view the April 19 afternoon parade.

April — Firefighters call in help from five towns to battle a series of destructive blazes April 17 and 18, the most serious at the Larchmont Farm barn.

May 5 — A crowd watches as flames engulf the Old Belfry Club shortly before midnight. Damage is estimated at \$15,000 to \$20,000. Faulty wiring may have caused the blaze.

May 26 — At a Battle Green ceremony, 630 Girl Scouts, Brownies and leaders honor Begum Liaquat Ali Kahn, Pakistan Girl Guides leader and wife of Pakistan's prime minister.

June 5 — An information booth, built by the Chamber of Commerce as an Old Belfry replica, is dedicated on Buckman Tavern grounds. It will be staffed daily in tourist season.

June 9 — Lexington Savings Bank, 1776 Mass. Ave., is hit by a fire which causes extensive damage to the third floor.

June — Beginning in July, only one delivery of mail a day will be made to reduce postal operating costs.

Life in Lexington

July 18 — The Fire Dept. resuscitator is used in a vain attempt to revive a 5-year-old taken from the Lexington side of the Arlington Reservoir, located off Rindge Avenue.

July — Estates are being divided into house lots and the Planning Board is swamped with subdivision plans as realtors say Lexington has become a "demand location."

July 27 — The 103-year-old rambling white house next to the Police Station, once owned by Dr. William Barnes, is being restored. It was purchased by the town in 1937 and later serves as the School Administration Building.

July — Residents get disturbing news from the Korean front where American troops are being pushed back by North Korean communists. Two local men are called for pre-induction physicals and 49 are classified 1-A by the draft board.

August — Police round up vandals who broke into junior and senior high school offices and rooms, causing nearly \$500 damage. All the youths, except one, are minors.

Aug. 18 — Sgt. Donald H. Farnham, of Bedford Street, is killed in action at the Korean front. He is believed to be the first local casualty in this conflict.

Aug. 21 — In letters half a mile high, seven planes type out a six-mile sign over Lexington. It advertises "New Blue Sunoco" gasoline in puffs of white smoke timed mechanically to send a message once every minute and 45 seconds.

Sept. 23 — The Center Playground Toilet Building officially opens.

October — The voting list is the largest ever — 7,736.

Oct. 22 — United Nations action in dealing with the Korean situation is the "very best possible step it could have taken to avert a possible third world war," Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz tells a capacity crowd during a Cary Hall speech.

November — More than \$4.3M worth of new building is recorded from January to October, including 421 single-family homes, the largest home building boom ever.

Nov. 21 — Schoolchildren jump for their lives as a man in a stolen convertible races 80 miles an hour through town. Patrolman William Dooley, directing traf-

Life in Lexington

fic in East Village, shoves the children to safety. The driver nearly hits a child in Bedford and smashes into six cars in Lowell before being cornered.

Nov. 23 — A Thanksgiving Day fire destroys a hen house and 50 hens at 435 Lincoln St.

Nov. 25 — Power is disrupted, trees topple, cellars flood and windows are smashed as a hurricane hits town.

Nov. 30 — Archbishop Richard Cushing speaks at St. Brigid's Diamond Jubilee Banquet in Cary Hall. More than 1,000 parishioners join in the celebration.

Dec. 4 — Town Meeting adopts zoning bylaws that increase minimum frontage required for new lots from 100 to 125 feet and minimum lot size from 12,500 to 15,500 square feet.

Dec. 6 — The Fireman's Benefit Association Ball at Cary Hall offers dancing and five entertainment acts.

Dec. 8 — Commentator Lowell Thomas Jr. speaks to an overflow crowd at the season's first Cary Lecture.

Dec. 31 — In 1950, 185 students were treated in the posture clinic and 184 students were treated in the dental clinic.

1951

Population (1950 census) - 17,335

Valuation- \$34,337,335

Fire alarms - 743

School enrollment - 2,985

Tax rate - \$45/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 275

Dog licenses - 1,460

Building permits - 435

Jan. 15 — A \$108,000 campaign to raise funds for Arlington's Symmes Hospital begins with the slogan "Let's Finish the Job." In 1949 a two-town campaign raised \$192,000 for the hospital, which serves Lexington and Arlington.

January — A total of \$6,729.66 is raised from Lexington's 120 parking meters, from the start of operations April 10, 1950, through the end of the year. The meters were purchased from Park-O-Meter for \$7,140.

January — Construction begins for a new two-story parish house addition for Hancock Church. The \$70,000 wing that includes Sunday School classrooms is the final step in a three-year modernization program.

Feb. 15 — Sgt. Richard Moakley, 22, leads a three-man assault on a communist mountain stronghold in Korea, stealing rifles of sleeping guards. Three more Lexington men have been inducted into the US Army, bringing the town total to 23.

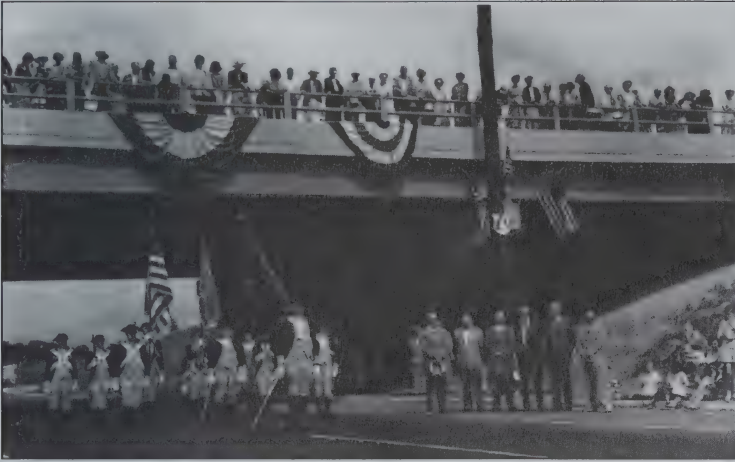
March 1 — The Lexington Chapter of the American Red Cross starts a \$12,000 fund drive "to aid the injured and combat-weary soldiers in the battlefield in Korea."

April 13 — For the second time, Boy Scouts begin selling the tricornered hat, adopted as the motif for Lexington's 175th anniversary last year. There are two models, the Hancock in black and the Paul Revere in colors for children.

April 19 — The Patriots Day celebration draws between 10,000 and 25,000 as Lexington celebrates the 176th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington. General Frank D. Merrill, former commander of Merrill's Marauders, heads the list of invited guests.

May 3 — The draft quota for May is 18, down from 40 in April at Local Board 21 at Medford City Hall. The national call for May was reduced from 60,000 to 40,000.

Life in Lexington



At right, construction of the new four-lane, limited access Route 128 is underway in 1950. Pine Meadows golf course can be seen to the right in this photo by S. Lawrence Whipple.

Above, local and state dignitaries and the Lexington Company of Minute Men are on hand to formally open the Lexington section of the new super highway. The ceremonies take place Aug. 23, 1951, at the Bedford Street overpass.

The dedication photo is courtesy of the Lexington Company of Minute Men.



May 5 — Three people die in a house fire at 494 Lowell St. Five other family members escape.

May 6 — The new East Lexington Fire Station has an open house. The up-to-date plant, for which construction started in April 1950, is on the same site as the original building erected in 1838.

June — The Five Fields planned community is taking shape on land that was once the Cutler Farm off Concord Avenue. Two key elements, contemporary design and a tract of common land, are based on The Architect's Collaborative vision that earlier created the Moon Hill neighborhood.

June 7 — The telephone company spends \$200,000 on additional cable and central office facilities to meet demands in Lexington and Bedford. In 1926 there were 2,043 phones in Lexington. In 1951 there are 6,601.

July 7 — Jean Gilman, 12, is a New England swimming champion. The

Life in Lexington

Liberty Avenue resident easily takes the lead and holds it consistently over the near-mile course at the regional NEAAAU swim meet.

July 23 — A referendum vote knocks out funding for new high school construction.

Aug. 7 — A contract is awarded to construct a \$1.8M building for the Air Force near Hanscom Airport in Bedford. This electronics research facility will be the largest of its kind in the country.

Aug. 16 — A natural gas pipeline from Texas is coming into Lexington. The line, which requires clearing trees, then digging trenches, is coming through Lincoln and then cutting through Bedford Airport.

Sept. 14— Marine Corporal Paul Gilbert Garten, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Garten, is wounded in the knee in action at the Korean front.

Oct. 21 — Mr. and Mrs. Laurence M. Carroll and their seven children receive the National Catholic Farm Family award from the Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Oct. 24 — The Lexington United Nations Day celebration features an address by well-known black woman Judge Edith S. Sampson, former member of the US delegation to the UN General Assembly.

Oct. 29 — Lexington becomes the town of Green Falls for six hours as an MGM film crew gathers at the railroad station to shoot the movie "Sometimes I Love You," starring Clark Gable and Ava Gardner.

Nov. 12 — In the largest Armistice Day celebration since 1918, veterans, clergymen and townspeople pay tribute to peace. The parade starts at Depot Square, proceeds to Cary Hall and back again.

Nov. 19 — The Lexington Field and Garden Club, one of the oldest garden clubs in America, celebrates its 75th anniversary at First Parish Church's Parker Hall. The featured speaker is William Roger Greeley, who sums up events of the past 75 years.

1952

Population (1950 census) - 17,335

Valuation - \$38,180,938

Fire alarms - 1,023

School enrollment - 3,247

Tax rate - \$44/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 306

Dog licenses - 1,593

Building permits - 500

Jan. 24 — The new home construction boom continues with 326 homes completed in 1951. Of the 379 built in 1950, 200 are in Sun Valley.

January — The Visiting Nurses Association celebrates 50 years of delivering health services in Lexington with a party at First Parish Church.

February — Residents are asked to donate blood for the war effort. About 300,000 pints are needed each month in Korea.

Feb. 28 — A lightning bolt hits a standpipe on Concord Hill, rupturing the feed and drain pipes in three places and sending more than 500,000 gallons of water coursing down the hill and across Lincoln Street.

March 17 — Selectmen speak out against a proposed 2,000-foot extension of a Hanscom runway that would point directly toward Parker School and the Manor section of town. State Rep. Harold E. Stevens of Lexington vigorously protests the move.

April — Edwin B. Worthen is elected president of Lexington Savings Bank, succeeding James Stuart Smith, who will serve on the board of trustees. Fred Newhall assumes the treasurer's post, a position held by Worthen for 43 years.

April — A new Methodist Church is approved by the Massachusetts Council of Churches. No site has been selected.

April — A two-alarm fire of unknown origin damages Mass. Ave. stores in the 1760-1770 block. Damaged are Frank Ready's Men's Shop, Michael Grifone's Shoe Repair and R.E. Scribner's Market.

May — Edward Munroe, the eighth-generation descendant of William Munroe, moves to Lexington from Cambridge. He and his family will live in private quarters as custodians of their ancestral home, the Munroe Tavern, on Mass. Ave. The Historical Society pays for renovation, including a new heating system.

Life in Lexington



From 1951 to 1953, Mary E. Dailey plays for the South Bend Blue Sox in the Women's Professional Baseball League that gains fame in the 1992 movie, "A League of Their Own." Dailey was honored at a 1950 Adams School reception after she was chosen to attend Fred S. Leo's All American Girls' Baseball League program. The former New England speed skating champ and three-sport LHS star would die from lupus in 1965 at the age of 37. Photo courtesy of the Dailey Family

June 17 — A reception for retiring School Supt. Thomas Grindle is held at Fiske School. Grindle began as head of the Lexington-Bedford schools' union in 1924 when enrollment was 1,600. Today it is 3,000.

June 29 — David Toomey of Mass. Ave. is named state Veteran of Foreign Wars commander. Twice wounded in action during World War II, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Presidential Unit Citation.

July 3 — The American Legion Independence Day celebration features a big bonfire beginning at midnight, the first in three years.

July — Mrs. Arthur Dodge of Abbott Road is a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago, along with John Harris of Blake Road, political editor of the Boston Globe.

July 28 — The bronze Minute Man Statue of Capt. John Parker is painted yellow and blue over the weekend. Town Painter Mike Shea mobilizes workers who use paint remover and a steam

machine to remove the dark yellow paint from the statue's coat and blue from the trousers. The police have no leads on the perpetrators.

Aug. 19 — Clarabell, the silent clown from television's "Howdy Doody Show," makes an appearance at Bradley's Shoes at 1733 Mass. Ave. A line of children and their mothers extends all the way down to Edison Way and Clarabell honks hello on his horn.

September — School enrollment sets a record for the first day with 3,223 students, up from last year's enrollment of 2,985.

Life in Lexington

September — Construction begins on a new, ultra-modern A & P (Atlantic & Pacific) supermarket at 33 Bedford St. The self-service store, in red-brick colonial design, will stock more than 4,000 items.

Nov. 4 — A record-breaking 95.92% of the town's registered voters help elect Dwight David Eisenhower president over Illinois Gov. Adlai Stevenson, 7,155 to 2,108. While John F. Kennedy takes the Senate seat statewide, Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. is the local winner, 6,606 to 2,649.

Nov. 25 — Adam Clayton Powell Jr., of New York City, minister and one of the first black congressmen, gives the principal address at the third annual nonsectarian Thanksgiving service at Cary Hall, sponsored by the Lexington Council of Churches.

Dec. 6 — Santa Claus comes to town in a helicopter, circling over the town for 20 minutes before touching down at Parker Field. Waving to the 2,000 people who have come to greet him, he leads a Christmas parade down Mass. Ave. At the library, Santa's open car stops so he can distribute candy.

Dec. 14 — Allen Lannom, associate professor of music at Boston University, debuts as conductor for the Lexington Choral Society with Handel's "Messiah." Lannom succeeds Wilmer Bartholomew.

1953

Population (1950 census) - 17,335

Valuation - \$41,548,700

Fire alarms - 1,003

School enrollment - 3,530

Tax rate - \$44/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 307

Dog licenses - 1,750

Building permits - 599

Jan. 1 — The Christ in Christmas Committee completes the holiday season with the inauguration of a creche on the Battle Green and a program of carol singing. During the war years, a townwide Christmas pageant was eliminated and has not been reinstated.

Jan. 20 — Several Lexingtonians show up in President Dwight D. Eisenhower's inaugural parade, including Norton Hood in his Minute Man uniform, standing on the Massachusetts float.

Jan. 23/24 — Russell Morash gets rave reviews for his starring role in the LHS senior class play, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."

Feb. 7 — An investigation is under way to determine the cause of a fire that destroys Greenfield Farms' dairy barn. The Marrett Road fire, one of the most serious blazes in town history, caused an estimated \$75,000 to \$100,000 worth of damage, drawing 70 firefighters from neighboring towns.

March — The Sisters of Charity of Montreal, also known as the Grey Nuns, purchase the Tower property on the south side of Mass. Ave. at Pelham Road, and the Bond and Engstrom properties across the street.

March 23 — Town Meeting approves construction of a municipal parking lot for 119 cars. Most of the land, located at Edison Way, will be donated, with the exception of a strip belonging to an abutter of the property.

April — Arthur G. Mather, 81, of Medford dies. In 1899, Mather, who had worked as a pressroom foreman at the Boston Traveler, was one of the models for the Minute Man Statue.

April 20 — In the wake of the Korean conflict, speakers warn 25,000 spectators about the dangers of communism at a chilly Patriots Day observance. Sgt. G.C. Chick of Boulder Road plays the part of William Dawes, riding horseback for three hours from Boston to Lexington.

May 7 — Lexington's first air-raid test fizzles when the fire whistle malfunctions and sounds for a full 10 minutes instead of a three-minute series

Life in Lexington

of short bursts. The test is part of a Civil Defense regional drill during which all residents are asked to seek shelter.

May 23 — Officials from seven NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) countries visit two local farms as well as historical sites. They came to see examples of American life and military installations.

May 26 — The A & P grocery store moves from 1759 Mass. Ave. to a new building at 33 Bedford St. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., with free parking, a parcel pickup station, self-service meat department and automatic doors.

June 5 — Residents, age 12 and over, are urged to take part in the Civil Defense Blood Typing Program. The free testing has two purposes — for use in personal emergency if blood is needed quickly and in time of atomic attack.

June 15 — Despite the truce with Korea, the Lexington Red Cross requests that all residents volunteer as blood donors. There is a great need for blood for wounded soldiers hospitalized in Japan and Korea. Sixty-five more donors are needed to fulfill the town quota of 150 pints.

June 16 — A tornado rips through Worcester, and Lexington residents respond to requests for relief and rehabilitation funds.

June 19 — Students walk together from the old high school building on Mass. Ave. to take a look at the new one off Waltham Street. Majorette Ann Leahy leads the parade. The new building will open in September.

July 2 — Gov. Christian Herter signs an amended bill to build a major US Air Force research facility at the Bedford Airport. The plan also includes extension of a runway.

July 4 — A huge bonfire on Parker Field is the highlight of the American Legion Independence Day celebration. Festivities also include a midway, pony rides and a Little League baseball game.

July — School Supt. John B. Smith reports worse-than-usual summer vandalism, most centered at Adams School in East Lexington. More than 90 windows are broken, despite metal grillwork.

August — Construction begins on the Edison Way parking lot. The project, under discussion for four years, will be funded primarily by parking meter revenue.

September — Approximately 700 students report to the new Lexington

Life in Lexington

High School on Waltham Street. In all, 31 teachers are hired townwide, a record number. Thirteen teachers resign, eight giving "marital reasons." Beginning this year, one class each of grades 1 through 6 is at the junior high school, temporarily called the Center School. Grades 7 and 8 join 9 through 12 at the high school.

Sept. 8 — At an all-day teachers' conference, Dr. Mark Murfin of Boston University stresses that the children of the '50s are distracted by contemporary social concerns, frequent moves from one community to another, too-busy home lives, comic books and overly sensational movies.

Sept. 18 — The Board of Appeals turns down a New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. request to construct a one-story building at the corner of Patriots Drive and Meriam Street.

Sept. 27 — More than 4,500 attend an open house at LHS. Visitors receive a 12-page descriptive brochure and a tour of the new building.

Oct. 1 — Countryside Shopping Center opens at the corner of Woburn and Lowell streets. Included are a dry cleaner, a pharmacy with a soda fountain and a meat shop, all named "Countryside."

Oct. 30 — After 48 years of service to the town, John J. Garrity retires. He worked in a variety of jobs, including supt. of parks and recreation.

November — Custance Brothers of Lexington begins construction on the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society building at 130 Waltham St.

Nov. 26 — LHS football captain Bernie Kinneen scores a touchdown against Concord in the Thanksgiving Day game. It is the first time Lexington had scored since 1945, but Concord ends up the winner of the game, 19-6.

Dec. 28 — By a 3-1 margin, voters approve a second single-family residential district, with a minimum lot size of 30,000 square feet and 150-foot frontage.

1954

Population (1950 census) - 17,335
Valuation - \$45,388,955
Fire alarms -962
School enrollment - 3,926

Tax rate - \$46/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 361
Dog licenses - 1,824
Building permits - 475

January — The Air Force announces it is going out to bid on a \$6M construction project at Hanscom Field. Eventually, plans call for \$60M in roads, dormitories and a large mess hall at Hanscom Air Force Base in neighboring Bedford.

January — Demolition crews tear down the Woodbine House on Waltham Street to make room for the dial telephone building. Dial telephone service is expected to come to Lexington by the spring of 1955 at a cost of \$2M.

March 22 — Town Meeting votes to spend \$730,000 for schools, \$700,000 to be bonded for 20 years for the new Maria Hastings Elementary School at the corner of Mass. Ave. and School Street near Route 128.

April 20 — Lexington starts spraying for mosquito control by airplane. The town suggests keeping cars under cover to prevent damage.

April 24 — A large crowd celebrates the dedication of the new Arts and Crafts Society Building at 130 Waltham St.

March 22 — Dr. Louise Bates Ames, well-known child psychologist, comes to Lexington to talk about patterns of development in "Is It Normal?"

April 20 — Lexington starts airplane spraying for mosquito control. The town suggests keeping cars under cover to prevent damage.

April 24 — A large crowd celebrates the dedication of the new Arts & Crafts Society Building at 130 Waltham St.

May 1 — Almost 5,000 performers and audience members come to town for the Northeastern Massachusetts Music Festival organized by the Lexington schools' director of instrumental music, Donald Gillespie. The festival includes concerts and a parade.

May 18 — More than 175 Lexington Rotarians celebrate the 25th anniversary of their organization with a formal dinner and dance at the Old Belfry Club.

Life in Lexington

May 22 — The LHS Class of 1904 gathers for a 50th reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William D. Milne in Carlisle. Class members enjoy the presence of Miss Grace P. French, dean of girls when they were at LHS.

June 14 — Lexington stages a successful town effort in the national air-raid test alert, with traffic stopped by police and air-raid wardens.

June 27 — The Rev. Roy M. Pearson surprises his Hancock Church congregation, announcing he is resigning in the fall after seven years in Lexington to become president of Andover Theological Seminary.

July 12 — The Boston & Maine Railroad files a petition with the state Department of Public Utilities to cancel two round-trip trains, one of them the Boston-Bedford route that operates at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. The train stops in Lexington.

Aug. 12 — Groundbreaking is held for the Maria Hastings School.

August — Telephone numbers will change with the advent of the new dial system coming next spring. All Lexington numbers will begin with "VO 2" followed by a four-digit number. The VO stands for "volunteer."

Aug. 31 — Hurricane Carol hits town, causing power losses and downed branches but no fatalities. An auxiliary power source keeps telephones operating. The steeple of the Church of Our Redeemer flies off and lands point-down in front of the church.



*Three-sport LHS star Don Nottebart signs a contract in 1954 with the Milwaukee Braves. After preparing in the farm system, he would join the Braves in 1960, rooming with his idol Warren Spahn. Nottebart pitched in the major leagues until 1969. The 1950 photo above shows Nottebart, third from left, back row with fellow players on the Lexington Boys' Club Baseball team.
Lexington Historical Society archives*

September — The first LHS foreign exchange student arrives. Miguel de Zavala, 18, is from Madrid and lives with Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Bowker in their Mass. Ave. home.

Sept. 28 — Vice President Richard M. Nixon arrives at Bedford Airport in the Flagship *Susquehanna*. Nixon, described by those present as "friendly and cordial," is greeted by a group including Sen. Leverett Saltonstall, US Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers and state

Life in Lexington

Supt. of Public Works John A. Volpe.

Oct. 27 — Color television has its first public showing in town when Peter's Music and Appliances unveils the newest Motorola set on the stage of Cary Hall. This is the last night of the third annual Lions Club Merchants' Exhibit.

Nov. 8 — The \$325,000 Fiske School addition is ready for students, about two months behind schedule. It includes 10 classrooms.

Nov. 16 — The School Committee unanimously votes to name the new school off Maple Street Harrington School in honor of the many prominent Harringtons whose ancestors have lived in town since the Revolutionary War.

Nov. 23 — Capt. G.L. Markle, a Navy chaplain aboard the USS Lexington when it was sunk in the 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea, speaks at the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service in Cary Hall.

1955

Population (1955 census) - 22,256

Valuation - \$49,071,173

Fire alarms - 1,041

School enrollment - 4,299

Tax rate - \$48/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 455

Dog licenses - 1,903

Building permits - 649

January — The 1955 census starts, as Town Clerk James Carroll sends out his army of census takers to every home and office in town. This is the fifth census he has conducted.

January — All grade schools go on a new schedule, which includes noon dismissal on Thursday to give parents and children a chance to take part in nonschool activities and to give teachers more flexibility.

January — In a first aid course for young mothers at the Fire Station, French war bride Bella Hall of Normandy Road is given permission to do the written portion in French.

Jan. 30 — A 20-year-old Belmont youth confesses to robbing the Colonial Pharmacy at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Waltham Street of \$400, using a toy gun.

March 17 — The driver of a large gasoline truck is killed when the vehicle tips over and burns on Route 2 at Pleasant Street. The blaze, fueled by 4,800 gallons of gas, creates smoke that can be seen for miles.

April 3 — On Palm Sunday, ground is broken for a community center addition to Follen Church.

April 11 — Town Meeting approves a zoning change for the sand pit area of North Lexington to permit construction of light manufacturing facilities. The area would later be developed as Hartwell Avenue. Opponents of the zoning revision say it would change the character of Lexington, with one resident saying it is "being left open for a tank town."

April 14 — Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, author of "The Power of Positive Thinking," delivers the final talk in the current Cary Lectures Series. The well-known minister is also a newspaper columnist and TV personality.

April — The School Committee announces the opening of Maria Hastings School for the fall and the closing of a temporary Center School, which had

been created within the junior high school. As a result, school district lines will be redrawn.

May 1 — The long-awaited changeover from manual to dial telephone service is executed at 3 a.m. A photograph on the front page of the Lexington Minute-man newspaper shows the men who worked on the conversion.

May 9 — Voters go to the polls to keep light manufacturing out of North Lexington. They rescind Town Meeting approval for a zoning change by a 2,559 to 773 margin.

May — The Salk vaccine, considered 90% effective in preventing polio, is given to 1,000 first- and second-grade children in their elementary schools.

May 19 — A proposed widening of the Concord Turnpike, Route 2, would result in removal of several homes in Lexington. Included in the plan is an overpass at Route 2 and Pleasant Street.

June 15 — Josiah Willard Hayden, 82, of Shade Street dies from injuries sustained in a Route 2 car accident. Since the death of his brother Charles in 1937, philanthropist Hayden has been president of the \$70M Charles Hayden Foundation, which is dedicated to helping underprivileged children in New York and Boston. His will would provide \$2.85M to build and maintain a Josiah Willard Hayden Recreation Centre for Lexington youth.

July 2 — Police intend to get tough with nighttime nude bathers at the North Street sand pit. The swimmers, who police say are from out of town, reportedly are loud and use objectionable language.

July 10 — A severe thunderstorm, along with almost 2.4 inches of rain, cuts electrical power throughout the town for more than an hour and lightning causes considerable damage to at least eight homes.

July — Selectmen sign an order to take land to start the Worthen Road construction project. The new road, which will run from Bedford Street southwest to Mass. Ave. and Lincoln Street, will take a 70-foot right of way and 50



A passenger train from Bedford comes chugging into Depot Square in Lexington. The train is on its way to Boston. Photo by Albert G. Hale

Life in Lexington

feet of pavement.

Aug. 19 — Eleven inches of rain creates floods, washouts and power outages all over town. The 24-hour storm causes \$10,000 worth of damage to town-owned property.

Sept. 15 — The start of school is delayed a week due to the summer's polio outbreak. There were five polio cases reported in July and eight in August. Three died of the disease in July.

Sept. 15 — For the first time in Lexington history, there are more than 500 first-graders on the first day of school. Total school enrollment is up 30% over a three-year period.

Nov. 6 — Between 2,000 and 3,000 residents visit the newly opened Maria Hastings School, designed by Charles H. Cole of Lexington. Because of the delay in opening, the 455 Hastings students started the year at Fiske School in double sessions.

Nov. 29 — The town's four voting precincts expand to six. Boundaries had not been changed since 1930.

Dec. 31 — A building record is set in 1955 with an estimated \$4.97M in construction.

1956

Population (1955 census) - 22,256

Valuation - \$53,529,532

Fire alarms - 1,043

School enrollment - 4,630

Tax rate - \$51/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 610

Dog licenses - 1,971

Building permits - 521

January — George E. Smith, owner of the 100-year-old Smith's Paper Store at 1832 Mass. Ave., sells the business to Leonard M. Foster.

Jan. 12 — More than 300 members and guests attend the Hancock Church Men's Club dinner meeting celebrating the 50th anniversary of the club's founding.

Jan. 16 — The super-secret Semi Automatic Ground Environment system is unveiled before 90 newsmen at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory on Wood Street. Officials say SAGE is an electronic system of devices which "think" and "converse" and "memorize" information for the assignment and control of air defense weapons.

Jan. 29 — An estimated 451 marching mothers raise more than \$5,877 to aid the fight against polio.

March 5 — Fifty-nine percent of registered voters elect Ralph J. Tucker and Ruth Morey as selectmen. Morey is the first woman elected to this board.

March — Ben Bertini is home after serving as trainer for the US Olympic hockey team during the winter games in Cortina, Italy.

March — The \$1M Josiah Willard Hayden Recreation Centre plan shows a boys' wing, a wing for girls and teen activities and a central building with a gym and pool. The club will stand near Center Playground on 25 acres Hayden donated.

March 19 — The first business session of Annual Town Meeting is delayed a week due to a blizzard that leaves 27 inches of snow.

March — A retail/office building is planned at 45 Waltham St. and First National stores will build a Bedford Street colonial-style market with free check cashing and bundle pickup.

April — A bear, described as between two and four feet tall and black (or brown), is spotted by police April 12. The next day it is seen outside Elis

Life in Lexington

Guditz's Vine Brook Road home. State and local officials examine the tracks and join the search. The story makes the Boston papers, page 1.

May — The tragic death of Fire Dept. Capt. Howard Fisk, who collapsed from overexertion during a recent brush fire, brings a call for a Special Town Meeting to appropriate funds for more firefighters. There were 26 calls on one Saturday last month and no more than 12 permanent firefighters work at any one time.

May 5 — A makeup clinic administers Salk anti-polio vaccine to children and expectant mothers. About 3,300 vaccinations have been given during this Health Dept. program.

May 15 — The Red Cross provides clothing for six Puerto Rican farm hands who lost their possessions and \$1,000 cash in a fire at the Lowell Street barn where they were living.

May 19 — A deliberate sonic boom, the first purposeful breaking of the sound barrier in the Greater Boston area, occurs at Hanscom Air Force Base on Armed Forces Day.

May 20 — Nearly 300 people watch the laying of the cornerstone for the Lexington Methodist Church on Mass. Ave. at School Street.

May 21 — New rules for disposal at the Lincoln Street town dump follow constant complaints of heavy smoke at the site.



*Demolition of the 1875 St. Brigid's Church makes way for a new church with a design based on Harvard's Memorial Chapel.
Lexington Minuteman photo*

June — State lawmakers approve a bill that creates a Lexington Historic Districts Commission covering the Battle Green, Hancock-Clarke House and Munroe Tavern areas.

July 5 — A ban on watering lawns and gardens, except from midnight to 9 a.m., is ordered. In those hours, people in even-numbered homes may water only on even-numbered days and those in odd-numbered homes only on odd-numbered days.

July — Dense smoke casts a dark shadow around the Lincoln Street dump. A fire that began July 18

Life in Lexington

burns for nearly a week. Firefighters pump 1million gallons of water on the blaze.

July 26 — More than 10,000 town pool visits have been recorded this season.

Aug. 7 — This week's police log shows a white duck found, a white goose lost and 250 feet of stonewall stolen from a Lincoln Street property.

Aug 16 — Edwin B. Worthen, unofficial town historian and former Lexington Savings Bank president, dies at 77.

Oct. 1 — The year's first Special Town Meeting agrees to add \$79,000 to funds already appropriated for a Franklin School addition so the \$509,000 low bid can be accepted.

October — The Raymond home at Clarke and Raymond streets is razed for a medical center with parking, offices and some surgical services.

October — Youths break into a Waltham Street barn — smashing 75 jugs, crushing peach baskets and dumping motor oil. Hot rodders disturb the peace on Liberty Avenue.

October — Red Feather Community Chest campaign volunteers ring doorbells to meet a \$26,500 quota.

Nov. 2 — Police seek the gunman who took \$1,000 in cash from a secretary at Lexington Plumbing and Heating Co., 72 Bedford St. The bandit ordered the secretary to hand over the payroll money. He forced her into a back room, then used his gun as a hammer to pound nails he had brought with him into the door to lock it.

Nov. 6 — Two precincts use voting machines for the first time.

Nov. 21 — Thanksgiving Eve crashes on Route 128 in Burlington and Lexington damage 17 cars. Police from three towns and state police try to unsnarl the worst traffic jam in the highway's history.

Dec. 13 — Former LHS football star and Tufts College senior F. David Wells is named a Williamson's 1956 All American as a halfback on the second team.

Dec. 31 — The inspector of animals' 1956 census lists: 128 cows, bulls, steer or oxen; 38 horses; two donkeys; three ponies; nine sheep; 12 goats; and 1,806 swine.

1957

Population (1955 census) - 22,256

Valuation - \$58,443,653

Fire alarms - 1,153

Building permits - 488

Tax rate - \$52/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 484

Dog licenses - 2,124

School enrollment - 5,077

Jan. 3 — Two Waltham men charged with breaking and entering in the nighttime and larceny are in East Cambridge jail awaiting possible grand jury indictment after their arrest last weekend. Police believe they committed close to 100 breaks, 40 in Lexington.

Jan. 15 — With temperatures hovering near zero, a spectacular fire in John Polley's large barn at 189 Wood St. destroys a horse, cow, calf, goat, two cars, 10 tons of hay and farm equipment.

Jan. 23 — More than 500 people in Cary Hall listen to plans for widening and re-locating Route 2 through Arlington and Lexington. About 125 properties will be impacted.

Feb. 9 — Police arrest four youths after a high-speed chase in which their stolen car overturns on Marrett Road. The youths try to escape. At least one shot is fired in the air before they are captured, unharmed.

Feb. 17 — Nearly 700 people crowd into the new Lexington Methodist Church on Mass. Ave. for the consecration service.

March — The LHS addition is complete and eight of 16 rooms in use. The auditorium should be ready within a month and remaining rooms occupied over the next two years.

March — In its first decisions, the Historic Districts Commission endorses a library expansion and denies a request for a "nonconforming" dwelling in the Munroe Tavern area.

March 28 — A \$10,000 fire in Martin's Drug Store on Mass. Ave., a Reed Street house fire and more than 20 brush fires keep firefighters busy this week.

April — Before packed galleries April 1, Town Meeting drafts a plan to renovate the junior high school, then amends the motion and directs that the funds be used to prepare a new plan and specifications for remodeling the school. At the April 3 meeting, members also vote \$75,000 for complete plans

and bids to build a new junior high school off Adams Street.

April — Since April 19 falls on Good Friday, Patriots Day festivities will end by noon.

Controversial plans to celebrate on Monday, April 22, are defeated in the state Legislature.

Surrounding towns will celebrate April 19 or 20.

April — Filene's department store

seeks rezoning of a large tract at Routes 2 and 128 for a regional shopping center that would include parking for 5,000 cars. In May, Filene's officials meet with groups, including the Woodhaven Improvement Assoc., whose members live near the proposed shopping center site. Impact on property values, local shops and traffic are concerns while the center would yield major tax revenue. The Citizens Zoning Committee of Lexington leads the opposition.

June — A multilevel contemporary house in Peacock Farm is first in the "Homes for Better Living" contest.

June — The Planning Board June 6 recommends against rezoning for the regional shopping center and selectmen decide against calling a Special Town Meeting. On June 20, citizens who favor the rezoning form a Lexington Homeowners Committee.

July — A huge fireworks display highlights the Lions Club's July 4 festivities. Radio personality Dave Maynard is the disc jockey at a July 3 record hop on the Center tennis courts.

July 11 — With a drought continuing, the town asks the state to declare Lexington an emergency area. Homeowners not complying with watering restrictions will have their water service turned off.

September — Schools open with 65 new teachers, a fourth of them hired because of resignations. Marriage was the top reason for resigning, cited by



Pictured at the March groundbreaking for a Cary Library addition are, from left: Selectmen Chairman Raymond James, architect William Roger Greeley, Selectman Ruth Morey, Building Addition Committee Chairman John Belding, Cary Library Trustees Chairman Rev. Harold T. Handley, Librarian Ralph Nason, School Committee Chairman Mildred Marek, committee member Robert Meyer and J. E. Finigan and Robert Powers representing the contractor. Cary Memorial Library photo

Life in Lexington

14 teachers. The Franklin School addition is behind schedule and double sessions will be held in the existing section when school starts.

Sept. 5 — A children's room opens on the second floor of the East Lexington Branch Library.

Sept. 8 — The new Episcopal Church of Our Redeemer, 6 Meriam St., is dedicated and the former church building, 17 Meriam St., later becomes St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

Sept. 8 — Dr. Herold C. Hunt, resident and former undersecretary of health, education and welfare, speaks as the new Lexington High School and its Veterans Memorial Library are dedicated.

Sept. 12 — The Health Dept. orders anti-Asian flu vaccine for police, fire and school employees on a voluntary basis.

Sept. 16 — A Special Town Meeting approves purchase of 10.5 acres including the North Street sand pit.

Oct. 1 — Eight horses are led to safety as a two-alarm fire sweeps up the back wall of a stable on Paul Bowser's 38-acre Grant Street estate. The property includes a trotting track.

Oct. 7, 8 — Heavy rains alleviate a severe drought. The water ban is lifted on a trial basis.

Oct. 24 — Lexington Motor Inn construction is under way at Routes 128 and 2A.

Oct. 30 — Opening of the Franklin School addition ends double sessions for students at the Stedman Road school.

November — Thanks to a new \$1,000 Electromatic Radar Speed Meter, police are clocking car speeds with uncanny accuracy.

December — A citizens petition seeks a Special Town Meeting to reopen the Filene's shopping center issue.

Dec. 8 — The Arlington-Lexington-Bedford Jewish Community Center at 1508 Mass. Ave. is dedicated.

December — Hancock Church fights the Historic Districts Commission's denial of plans for an addition. Commissioners say its size and scope would dominate the Battle Green area.

Life in Lexington

December — Police are on the trail of a fur theft ring. The gang broke into two Lawrence Lane homes the week before Christmas, taking more than \$2,000 in furs, jewelry and cash. Similar breaks have occurred in Belmont at the Lexington line.

Dec. 30 — The 60-room Battle Green Inn and restaurant gets the variance it needs to operate at the old Town Diner site on Mass. Ave.

Dec. 31 — The animal inspector's 1957 census lists 127 cows, 58 horses, two ponies, 22 sheep, 10 goats and 1,303 swine; 130 dog bites were reported.

1958

Valuation - \$62,105,910

Population (1955 census) - 22,256

Fire alarms - 891

School enrollment - 5488

Tax rate - \$64.50/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 543

Dog licenses - 2,044

Building permits - 440

Jan. 23 — The Historic Districts Commission again denies Hancock Church's request for an addition after a public hearing where three alternate plans were submitted. The church filed an appeal after the first plan was rejected.

January — Sherwin-Williams Co. has used maroon and yellow on store-fronts worldwide since 1894, but the Historic Districts Commission rules that the new store at 1841 Mass. Ave. must have its maroon and yellow sign removed within 30 days. An ivory sign with black letters has been approved.

Jan. 23 — Heavy rains leave about 100 cellars flooded. Sales of sump and other pumps rise.

Jan. 24 — Hundreds attend the dedication of the \$1.5M Josiah Willard Hayden Recreation Centre on Lincoln Street.

Jan. 30 — An Air Force F-94 jet fighter crashes a few hundred yards from the Lexington line near Lowell Street, killing two men in Arlington.

Feb. 1 — A country square dance is planned for Miss Helen Merrill's high school ballroom group at the Old Belfry Club. There will also be foxtrots, waltzes, fun and refreshments.

Feb. 9 — The new police station at 1575 Mass. Ave. is open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m.

Feb. 21 — The Board of Health seeks residents' opinions about fluoridating the town's water.

Feb. 24 — The East Lexington Men's Club celebrates its 50th anniversary at a supper meeting in Follen Church.

Feb. 27 — Hancock Church members vote to establish a second Congregational church in town and agree to take their dispute with the Historic Districts Commission to court.

Life in Lexington

March 10 — In a nonbinding referendum, voters support rezoning 158 acres off Route 2 for Filene's proposed regional shopping center. The vote is 3,696 to 1,759.

March 11 — Hayden Recreation Centre's membership is taxing its facilities. New applications will be delayed temporarily, with names added to a waiting list.

March 21 — A storm leaves hundreds of homes without power. A power line falls across the train tracks on Meriam Street, stranding commuters two hours.

March 23 — Town Meeting appropriates \$457,000 to renovate the existing junior high school.

April 3 — A Merriam Hill home with a step-down living room, beamed-ceiling dining room, TV room, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths and garage is selling for \$21,000. A Ford custom "200 sedan" is \$1,995 (for a limited time) at Dunn Ford, 409 Mass. Ave.

April 19 — Ray Eberle, vocalist with the pre-war Glenn Miller band, brings his Serenade in Blue Orchestra here for the Yankee Homecoming Formal Ball.

May 12 — The question of rezoning for Filene's shopping center is settled at a Special Town Meeting as 92 members favor the plan and 94 oppose it. A two-thirds majority would have been required for passage.

May 17 — The Prom-Manaders "Ship Rec" dance at Hayden Centre includes swimming. Girls bring their bathing suits (no wool) and use Hayden towels. Boys use Hayden suits and towels.

May 28 — Lexington officials meet with Cabot, Cabot & Forbes, a firm that obtained Filene's options in the Routes 2 and 128 area. CC&F plans an executive office park complex on the site and Raytheon is interested in 30 acres.

June — The existing junior high will become Isaac Muzzey Junior High and the new school will be William Diamond Junior High. Eighth-grader Judith Kensley picks the Muzzey name and Parker fifth-grader Thomas Peckham chooses the Diamond name.

June 22 — The Field and Garden Club dedicates land near the Center railroad depot as Frederick L. Emery Park.

June — Sears Roebuck and Co. will open a catalog and appliance store at

Life in Lexington

1725 Mass. Ave., former Bateman's Dept. Store site.

July 2 — The town issues a new ban on outside watering.

July 11 — A freak storm causes thousands of dollars in damage. Two large Wood Street hen houses are picked off their foundations and dropped nearby in shambles. Lightning triggers a Lowell Street fire.

July 12 — The new Miss Massachusetts Patricia Nordling, 19, will compete for Miss America in September. To win the state title, the resident and student nurse played the piano and sang "Exactly Like You."

July 13 — The First Baptist Church breaks ground for a new chapel and educational wing.

July — A committee recommends a 60-day trial of one-way traffic on Muzzey, Clarke and Raymond streets.

Aug. 21 — The state banking board hears Depositors Trust Co. of Medford's petition for a local branch. Anthony R. Cataldo, a Depositors Trust vice president, has purchased the railroad station depot in Lexington Center.

Sept. 15 — A Special Town Meeting approves a new office research zone near Routes 2 and 128 and rezones a Waltham Street site for garden-type apartments. Funds are approved to build part of Worthen Road at the edge of Center Playground.

September — A 29-acre parcel off Lowell Street near Summer Street is purchased to build a Christian high school.

October — Itek Corp. buys a 43-acre tract in the light manufacturing zone off Westview Street.

Oct. 9 — Hazel Cheever demonstrates how to cook seven gourmet dishes at the annual Lexington Minute-man-Mystic Valley Gas Co. cooking party in Masonic Hall. A special mirror on stage allows everyone to follow the preparations.

October — The newly-established Pilgrim Congregational Church agrees to buy an 8-acre site on Coolidge Avenue.

Dec. 3 — A Middlesex Superior Court judge concludes the Historic Districts Commission exceeded its authority and acted in an arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable manner in rejecting Hancock Church's request for an addition. The issue is returned to commissioners.

Life in Lexington

Dec. 10 — The first dosage of a more potent rat poison is administered to fight rodents at the Lincoln Street dump. Residents are warned to refrain from taking pets there.

December — Development of a \$1.5M, 116-unit, garden-type apartment complex is planned off Maple Street.

Dec. 15 — Winter's first heavy snowfall triggers a fatal Route 128 crash and minor accidents throughout town.

December — A citizens' committee assembles 20 copies of a report on scholastic needs of the gifted children in town.

December — The 1775 House at Route 2 and Pleasant Street is the only local restaurant among 3,500 in "Duncan Hines Adventures in Good Eating."

1959

Population (1955 census) - 22,256

Valuation - \$66,696,418

Fire alarms - 1,077

School enrollment - 5,888

Tax rate - \$63/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 618

Dog licenses - 2,050

Building permits - 490

January — The Depositors Trust Co. application for a Lexington branch is approved by the State Banking Commission.

February — A \$100,000 contemporary church rises on Worthen Road for the interdenominational Grace Chapel.

Feb. 5 — Citizens and League of Women Voters members meet with the Gifted Child Study Committee to consider "The Necessity for a Program for Gifted Children in Lexington."

March 16 — Members dispose of all 62 items on the 1959 Annual Town Meeting warrant in one session. A trunk sewer west of Bedford Street is approved. Land acquisitions include parcels abutting the Lincoln Street dump and Middleby Road and a 23-acre site off Sutherland Avenue.

March 19 — US Senate and House bills call for creating Minute Man National Historical Park that would include historic sites in Lexington, Lincoln and Concord.

April 19 — Despite leaden skies and raw winds, 40,000 watch the Patriots Day parade, applauding 19 bands, floats, marchers and Patricia Thoren, reigning Lady Lexington.

April 25 — The Battle Green Inn opens at 1720 Mass. Ave. with color phones, TV sets, tile showers and wall-to-wall carpet.

April 29 — A Bedford Street man is killed and a companion injured when their car collides with a Buddliner commuter train at the Hancock Avenue-Camellia Place crossing, an intersection with no signals or gate. Hancock Avenue and Camellia Place are private ways and residents of Hancock Avenue want it to be a dead-end street. On May 5, an auto is hit by a Buddliner at the unprotected Woburn Street crossing. The Watertown man, who narrowly escapes serious injury, says he heard no whistles or signals before his fender was struck by the three-car train.

May 14 — Painting begins on the new Concord Hill town water tower.

Life in Lexington

Interior work should take about eight days, working 'round the clock.

May 16 — About 450 residents enjoy a Trout Derby at the Old Res hosted by the Lions Club and the Recreation Committee.

June 5 — A 2.5-mile Hanscom Field access road from Bedford Street to Wood Street is approved.

June 5 — Residents gather to form Temple Isaiah, affiliated with the liberal Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

June — A bird bander, braillist and harpsichord builder are among 112 hobbyists listed in a new Community Resources Catalog.

June 11 — A Watertown man becomes the second auto-train crash victim in less than two months after his car collides with a Buddliner train at the entrance to Lexington Nursery. This private crossing near Tower Park is marked only by a faint sign. A witness says the train's whistle didn't blow before the collision.

June 24 — The local Civil Defense group prepares a plan in accordance with state law.

July — Workmen raze the Kelsey Cow Ranch and barns for Cabot, Cabot & Forbes' office/ research park near Routes 2 and 128.

July — The town's new bright red Cadillac ambulance arrives with the latest equipment.

July — Munroe Station near Tower Park is razed. It was formerly owned by the Boston & Maine Railroad.

July — The Board of Health urges citizens to get polio shots at once. If the present trend continues, there could be more cases of paralytic polio this year than at any time since Salk vaccine became available in 1955.

July 27 — Selectmen vote to install mercury vapor lamps on Bedford Street from Harrington Road to the First National market.

July — The Historic Districts Commission approves exterior architectural features of Hancock Church's proposed addition, ending a two-year controversy.

August — In a crackdown on open-air fires, warnings are sent noting that violators may be fined up to \$100 or imprisoned.

Life in Lexington

Aug. 7 — Michelson's Shoes, the town's oldest family-owned business, marks its 40th anniversary. Isadore Michelson opened a shop in the Lexington Federal Savings and Loan Building in 1919. His son Harold is now in charge. The store moved to 1788 Mass. Ave. in 1941.

August — Complaints about mosquitoes flood the DPW office. Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control Project staff sends large spraying machines through the hardest-hit areas.

September — Selectmen are notified about the widening of Route 128. The project will affect about 15 homes near the Bedford Street, Marrett Road and Route 2 intersections.

Sept. 9 — An open house is held at Red Cross headquarters, the former Garrity House opposite the Battle Green.

Sept. 20 — A cake model of the Lowell Street nondenominational Countryside Bible Chapel is cut at an open house for the new congregation.

Sept. 21 — President Dwight Eisenhower signs the Minute Man National Historical Park bill. Officials hope initially to earmark \$500,000 to acquire vacant land and, in later years, lesser amounts to obtain private properties through purchase agreements with owners.

Oct. 24 — Judi Porter, 19, of Slocum Road is selected Miss Lexington from 15 finalists in the Lexington Junior Chamber of Commerce-sponsored pageant.

Nov. 2 — A wandering sheep jumps through an LHS window, leading followers on a merry chase along corridors, then outside through fields and over stone walls. Two police officers capture the animal on Fairbanks Road. The ewe suffers a broken leg and is dispatched. A volunteer, with the owner's permission, takes the sheep home to his freezer.

Nov. 13 — Hundreds are turned away from a Cary Lecture featuring space expert Dr. Werner von Braun. A loudspeaker is set up for the overflow crowd in Estabrook Hall, downstairs in the Cary Memorial Building.

Nov. 30 — William Diamond Junior High School opens, ending double sessions for local junior high students.

Dec. 31 — The inspector of animals' 1959 census lists: 80 cows, 54 horses, 10 sheep, 10 goats and 1,325 swine. There were 125 dog bites reported in 1959 plus single rabbit, hamster, mouse and cat bites.

1960

Population - (1960 census) - 27,920

Valuation - \$71,482,869

Fire alarms - 1,090

School enrollment - 6,280

Tax rate - \$68/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 660

Dog licenses - 2,044

Building permits - 490

Jan. 3 — Flames leap 25 to 50 feet as 1,200 Christmas trees collected by the Junior Chamber of Commerce are set ablaze behind Hayden Centre.

January — The mosquito control program begins with DDT hand dusting on frozen swamp lands. Large swamps will be sprayed by helicopter in April.

January — Curtin's Garden Shop reports selling nearly a ton of birdseed weekly from November through March. Lexington Nursery sells about 20 tons a year. Local bird lover Felix Cutler fills feeders near his Carley Road home with more than 800 pounds of seed a year.

Jan. 6, 7 — The town's largest, oldest tree is cut down, a victim of Dutch elm disease. The tree was at the original Hancock-Clarke House site when Paul Revere came in 1775.

January — The Grey Nuns receive a permit to build the \$940,000 Lexington Academy of the Holy Family on Pelham Road.

January — Lexington's Civil Defense radio network system is ready for emergencies with a chain-of-command operation covering all six precincts and two-way radio-equipped vehicles. The radio center is located in Cary Hall.

Feb. 8 — Officials say a Route 3 extension plan suggested by Arlington would bring "disaster" to Lexington, passing through the Arlington-owned Great Meadow in Lexington and taking many local homes. Lexington favors extending Route 3 from Route 128 along Woburn-Lexington-Winchester land.

Feb. 27 — The Old Belfry Club becomes Dog Patch and Skunk Hollow during a Sadie Hawkins Day Dinner Dance. Members and guests arrive as Al Capp characters. Dinner features Southern Vittles. Fast Stompers and Jug Whistlers provide music.

March 5 — A fleet of equipment and a small army of men work around the clock, fighting a blizzard that drops 2 feet of snow.

March 8 — Emergency personnel are off on a rescue mission after a man

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tells police he heard a low, moaning sound when telephoning a Lexington resident. Police and firefighters hurry to the Carlson home, force their way inside and discover the "victim" is the family dog. The pooch had knocked the phone off the hook and was growling convincingly.

March 13 — More than 100 members join Town Meeting's first "Come See" tour of warrant article sites. A police cruiser escorts the 35-car cavalcade for the 25-mile trip.

March 14 — Selectmen elect Ruth Morey chairman, the first woman to hold this post.

March 28 — Town Meeting votes to spend more than \$8M, including \$1.2M for a Grove Street school that will feature the team-teaching concept. Members also agree to acquire 17 acres to extend the school's playground and recreation areas.

March — Questions about the health effects of mosquito control methods prompt a Board of Health study. The East Middlesex Mosquito Project director says the project uses the best, safest methods available.

April 7 — State figures just released show 35 residents died from cancer and other malignant growths in the year ending Jan. 1, 1958. The rate, equal to 151 deaths per 100,000 population, is lower than the average for New England (186 per 100,000) and for Massachusetts (195 per 100,000).

April 11 — Light motor scooters are banned from town land.

April 11 — Selectmen discuss a request to build a National Guard armory in Lexington. The town would provide land, and federal and state governments would build the armory.

April 19 — LHS senior and Prom-Manaders Queen Janice Cupp, 18, leads the Patriots Day parade as Lady Lexington on a float built by the group. Her court includes Susan Fisher, Mary Lou Rissling, Ellen Schumacher and Carol Ricci. Cupp's role honors the original Lady Lexington (1673-1712), whose portrait hangs in Cary Hall.

April 23 — A VFW color guard, the Muzzey Junior High band, the 4-H Horse Club and 240 marchers kick off Little League baseball season with a parade. National and American League games follow home plate ceremonies. Mrs. Lexington Little League (Barbara Nason) gets a surprise award for six years as a loyal league worker and official scorer.

April — A series of four blasts on the Fire Dept. whistle is the new Civil

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Defense signal when there is more than a three-hour warning of enemy attack. Two blasts mean an attack is less than three hours away. A May 2 test is planned.

May 9 — A preliminary Minute Man National Historical Park plan suggests Route 2A be relocated on a parallel line with the park's south side boundary.

May 17 — A hearing on the proposed 15.5-mile widening of Route 128 from Weston to Woburn could mean 24 homes, eight garages and two barns in Lexington would be taken.

May — Lexington Savings Bank displays an architect's drawing of its planned building remodeling and renovation. Construction begins in June.

June 8 — The largest class in Lexington High School history to date, 282 seniors, graduates in the LHS auditorium.

June 27 — A new 36-inch water main under construction along Route 2 is bringing water from Arlington, an improvement that should alleviate water supply problems due to insufficient capacity in the current pipes.

July 4 — A crowd estimated at 20,000 to 30,000 comes to the town football field to enjoy the Lions Club fireworks display.

July 12 — A full ban on watering lawns and gardens is in effect due to the summer's dry spell. A ban had been imposed July 6 and lifted.

July 20 — The National Park Service contacts more than 50 owners of vacant land to negotiate \$500,000 in sales to the government. Minute Man National Historical Park is expected to be completed in 1975 in time for the Bicentennial of the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

July — The Board of Appeals turns down Robert Hall Clothes' request for a 43-foot sign for a proposed store at Waltham Street and Concord Avenue.

July — The town resident list shows that, of 1,500 new home occupants, nearly 400 were already living in Lexington.

Aug. 22 — A clapboard private home between the Battle Green Inn and the Colonial Garage on Mass. Ave. is razed.

Sept. 5 — John McNicholas of Rowland Avenue is named Lexington Post Office superintendent after 19 years with the postal department. He succeeds the retiring James MacAuliffe.

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Sept. 22 — After more than 100 complaints, the Board of Health revokes for 30 days the license to keep 2,000 pigs at Potter's Piggery on Walnut Street. Residents in the Minute Man Highlands area had been complaining of the animals' odor.

Sept. 26 — At a Special Town Meeting, members earmark \$22,700 in addition to \$25,000 already appropriated, for land abutting a parcel to be used as off street parking at Meriam Street near the railroad line. Access would be from Depot Square. A comment is made at the meeting about getting members home in time to watch the Nixon-Kennedy TV debate.

Oct. 3 — More than 400 residents sign a petition against extending Buckman Drive to join Moreland Avenue on Follen Hill. A previous petition signed by 80 families in Moreland Avenue-Moon Hill area requested the extension.

Oct. 12 — A record number of tourists — 7,866 — sign the Chamber of Commerce information booth register during 1960, representing all 50 states and many countries.

November — A CBS-TV film crew with Howard K. Smith comes to the Battle Green for an hour-long program on Lexington schools' team teaching system.

Nov. 8 — Lexington voters choose Republican Richard Nixon for president over Democrat John F. Kennedy, 7,475 to 5,371, in a 96% turnout. Only Precinct 1 favors Kennedy.

Dec. 19 — A special Town Meeting approves an MIT Lincoln Laboratory request to rezone 7.6 acres of land off Wood Street for a \$1M building.

1961

Population (1960 census) - 27,691

Valuation - \$78,075,245

Fire alarms - 1,046

School enrollment - 6,612

Tax rate - \$73/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 773

Dog licenses - 2,120

Building permits - 443

Jan. 3 — The town acquires the title for a new 200-car municipal parking lot across the railroad tracks off Meriam Street. Permission to use the land had been given by then-owner Anthony Cataldo for Christmas season parking until legal complications were straightened out.

Jan. 19 — Author and humorist Bennett Cerf is a Cary Lecture Series speaker.

Feb. 2 — The School Committee is setting up the boundaries for the new Grove Street school district. Included are all students living northwest of Route 128, who would normally be attending either Fiske, Harrington or Parker schools.

Feb. 9 — Lexington's new Lodge of Elks signs up the required 150 members to obtain a charter. In March, the new officers will be installed.

March — The new elementary school on Grove Street will be named Joseph H. Estabrook School in honor of the town's first teacher.

March 6 — On a referendum question, voters approve equal pay for women teachers, 1,236 to 1,003. Feb. 20, School Committee members had gone on record against the referendum for equal pay for all teachers, saying they wanted to be able to retain the right to continue to establish salary guidelines in the best interests of the schools.

March 27 — A revaluation of town property is approved by Town Meeting. It is expected that total valuation will rise about 20%.

March 29 — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Suffolk County assistant district attorney and brother of President John Kennedy, speaks at the annual State Conference on Physical Education at LHS.

April 19 — An estimated 70,000 spectators, including Ambassador W.M.C. Halm of Ghana, brave biting winds to attend Patriots Day activities.

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The Battle Green Apartments are in full view in this photo from the corner of Worthen Road and Bedford Street taken prior to Stop & Shop construction in 1962. Lexington Historical Society archives

April — The Lexington Historical Society, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, kicks off a museum building fund with an anonymous gift of \$1,000.

May — Selectmen choose 64 acres on Hartwell as the site of the new town dump, replacing the one on Lincoln Street.

May — Temple Emunah, a conservative Jewish congregation in Lexington, begins a campaign to raise \$225,000 for a new synagogue, religious school and social center. A 7-acre site at the intersection of Waltham Street and Route 2 has been selected.

May — The School Dept. unveils a plan for a new four-year high school that would include a new building with an emphasis on individualized instruction and learning centers.

May 22 — Two boys, ages 11 and 12, are taken into custody for a 10-day rampage that included trashing a house, slashing 52 tires and putting dirt and eggs into residential oil-tank pipes.

June 21 — Two of the newest groups in town, the Elks and the Marine Corps League, cosponsor a free band concert at Parker Field. Music is being provided by the 18th US Army Concert Band from Ft. Devens.

July 10 — Medford pilot Allan Russell walks away with only minor injuries when his helicopter crashes into trees behind the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Higgins on Woburn Street.

July 10 — A referendum vote overturns Special Town Meeting approval to

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spend \$128,000 to obtain final plans for a new high school.

July 18 — Rifle-toting vandals hit stores and homes every night between 11:30 and 12:30 for the past week. No injuries are reported.

July 20 — A new 2M-gallon Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) water tank is being built off Walnut Street. The water comes from the Arlington pumping station.

July 31 — School Committee member Dan H. Fenn Jr. is named a special presidential assistant to John F. Kennedy. Fenn will be on a leave of absence from the Harvard Business School faculty.

August — The Woburn Selective Service office, which serves Lexington, announces that three Lexingtonians, all 21, will go into active service Aug. 22. The number of inductions will triple; youths will be processed at age 20 1/2 and drafted at 21.

August — Dr. Fred S. Piper, formerly of Lexington, donates one of the country's most comprehensive collections of books by and about Henry David Thoreau to the Cary Library. Piper is a former Cary trustee.

Sept. 6 — A man suspected of murdering an 81-year-old Lexington woman and injuring her sister commits suicide after being questioned by Lexington police. The suspect allegedly confessed to the murder by telephone after the questioning.

September — The town's Civil Defense program issues an urgent appeal for volunteer help, especially in staffing the Cary Hall office. There has been a large volume of calls for information on defense preparedness and fallout shelters.

Sept. 7 — The television program "Route 66," with actors George Maharis, Marty Milner and Dan O'Herlihy, takes a detour to film here, with a sequence at the Minute Man statue.

Sept. 19 — An inquest into the death of a 26-year-old Dedham man is ordered by the medical examiner. He died of a skull fracture after the trench he was digging on Shade Street collapsed and he was struck by a water main.

September — The Civil Defense Dept. is compiling information from residents, via questionnaires sent home with schoolchildren, about building fallout shelters in the schools. The cost would be about \$100 per pupil.

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Oct. 8 — The dedication of Estabrook School is held in the play hall of the new building.

Nov. 16— Selectmen nix the idea of a Lexington Historic Tour Train to local tourist sites, despite a nonbinding public hearing vote in favor of the concept. Opponents criticized the idea as being too “Disneyland” or “Coney Island.”

November — Some residents are notified that their land will be taken to widen Route 2 between Watertown and Spring streets. Plans call for improvements to Route 2 from Alewife Brook Parkway to Route 128.

Dec. 7 — Stop & Shop announces the purchase of a 4-acre property at the corner of Bedford Street and Worthen Road. Construction of a large, modern supermarket will begin early in 1962.

1962

Population (1960 census) - 27,691

Valuation - \$164,736,596

Fire alarms - 1,269

School enrollment - 7,005

Tax rate - \$39.80/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 886

Dog licenses - 2,279

Building permits - 379

Jan. 7 — Members of Pilgrim Congregational Church dedicate their new house of worship on Coolidge Avenue.

January — The Historical Society gives its permission to Wedgwood, the china manufacturer, to produce a Lexington Plate. The plate features the Lexington Minute Man Statue and Capt. John Parker's words: "Stand your ground. Don't fire unless fired upon but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here."

March 6 — Msgr. George W. Casey, pastor of St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church and columnist for the Pilot, Catholic archdiocesan weekly newspaper, receives the Lexington Brotherhood Award and a citation from the National Conference of Christians and Jews for "promoting the cause of good will and understanding."

May 6 — Clergy of all faiths celebrate groundbreaking for the new Temple Isaiah on Lincoln Street. Rabbi Bernard Bloom of Temple Isaiah gives the benediction; Rabbi Herbert Rosenblum of Temple Emunah delivers the invocation.

May 10 — A round of Salk polio vaccine is being given to schoolchildren and preschoolers.

May 10 — The Lexington Civil Rights Committee's Good Neighbor Pledge, supporting equal opportunity in home ownership, appears in the Lexington Minute-man newspaper, signed by 1,500 residents.

June — For what is believed to be the first time in Boston Archdiocese history, Catholics and Protestants get together for dinner and to talk about Christian unity in the basement of St. Brigid's Church.

June — In an effort to make the East Lexington Branch Library more useful to patrons, a new sign lists famous 19th-century Americans who lectured there, including Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Another sign shows the library's newly extended hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays

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and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

July 3 — Women and children take over the picket lines at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory as employees attend a union meeting to vote on a new contract.

July 12 — Cary Library trustees and local historians get a peek at Lexington's first diorama of the Battle of Lexington, designed by Assistant Director William F. Buckley. The diorama is placed in the library's lobby.

July 21 — Two men are sought for murder and attempted robbery in connection with the killing of a Puerto Rican migrant worker at the Ricci Farm on Waltham Street.

July 23 — A two-alarm fire destroys the Carriage House Restaurant on Lincoln and School streets. An investigation is underway to determine the origin of the blaze that caused \$200,000 in damages.

July — Since last year, Cary Library circulation has increased 25% at the main library and 40% at the East Lexington Branch.

August — The Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works tells town officials of affected communities of a proposal to extend Route 3 through Lexington to connect with Route 2.

October — A 20-year-old Cape Cod-style house in the Manor section is selling for \$25,500. It has two bedrooms, one and half baths, a recreation room and fireplace.

Oct. 18 — The controversy over importation and sale of Polish hams becomes an issue when 300 small cards are found on hams in local grocery stores. The cards say, "Always buy your Communist Polish hams at this store" and "Inspected for your table by Communists."

Oct. 25 — Establishment of Minute Man National Park in Lexington, Concord and Lincoln is moving along, speeded by the acquisition of 45 acres in the Fiske Hill area of Lexington. A target date of 1975, the Bicentennial of the Battle of Lexington, has been set for completion of the park.

Oct. 28 — Residents are concerned about the Cuban missile crisis, but there are no signs of panic buying. Selectmen re-examine the town's Civil Defense plan and may seek a \$40,000 warning system.

Nov. 8 — The Grove Street bridge over Route 128 is closed for six months while a new bridge is constructed, and parts of Mass. Ave. and Wood Street are closed while Mass. Ave. is connected with a new bridge over Route 128.

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Nov. 13 — A permit is issued to construct nine of an eventual 19 red brick apartment buildings along Maple Street and Emerson Road. The Emerson Gardens complex will be Georgian colonial in design.

Nov. 13 — The installation of 226 parking meters in two town lots begins with meters on Waltham Street. The new Meriam Street lot is not as yet being metered.

November — A National Guard armory is planned for a 4-acre site on Bedford Street at the Bedford town line. The building will house the 101st Infantry.

1963

Population (1960 census) - 27,691
Valuation - \$169,279,100
Fire alarms - 1,614
School enrollment - 7,420

Tax rate - \$38.80/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 926
Dog licenses - 2,279
Building permits - 394

Feb. 11 — More than 1,200 turn out to hear Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. speak at the LHS auditorium on “Stride Toward Freedom,” hosted by the Lexington Civil Rights Committee. King said the fight for racial integration has “a long, long way to go before the American dream is a reality.”

February — A Department of Defense survey of town buildings shows there is sufficient fallout shelter space for the entire population. The average cost for modification of existing buildings would be \$11.50 per person.

Feb. 25 — By a 2-1 margin, voters in a referendum approve a \$3.2M LHS addition. Construction by Park Construction Co. of Boston is expected to begin March 25.

March 25 — Town Meeting approves a zoning change to allow a 48-unit, six-building garden apartment complex on Worthen Road. A \$12,000 Civil Defense alarm system is approved, along with \$30,000 to drain Kiln Brook, which goes through the Tophet Swamp area of North Lexington where the new dump is located.

April 19 — The 250th birthday of Lexington’s incorporation is celebrated along with Patriots Day. More than 125,000 attend the afternoon parade, including 10 ambassadors from Latin American countries, Gov. Endicott Peabody and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. The sunrise parade includes 1,200 children and 8,000 spectators.

April 19 — Doris Pullen writes and Anne Ives illustrates a children’s coloring book, “Lexington, Massachusetts, April 19, 1775.”

April 29 — Lincoln P. Cole Jr. is sworn in as chairman of the Board of Selectmen, replacing Lexington Minute-man editor/publisher Alan G. Adams, who resigned because of a new state law regarding conflict of interest between selling advertising and holding town office.

May — The first oral polio vaccine clinic for adults, sponsored by the Lexington Jaycees, draws 3,600.

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May 29 — Fourteen merchants in Lexington Center stay open till midnight for a special one-night sale, with discounts ranging from 10 to 50% off regular prices.

June 3 — Selectmen vote to continue the Parks Dept. pesticide spraying program for mosquito abatement. This year Sevin is being used, considered less toxic than DDT.

Four residents appeared at the selectmen's meeting May 27 to protest it for health reasons, while 46 others signed a petition to continue spraying.

June — Construction begins on a three-unit, 22,000-square-foot National Guard armory on Bedford Street. Included in the project will be a 10,000-square-foot fallout shelter for 1,000 persons, the first of its kind in any new armory.

July — The town's water supply problem is solved for now, thanks to completion of the new 2M-gallon tank on Walnut Street. This is the first summer in 15 years there has not been a ban on water use.

July 4 — Two nights of fireworks attract a crowd of 100,000 to Parker Field for the Lexington Lions Club Fourth of July celebration.

July 22 — More than 250 parents crowd a seminar room at Estabrook School to question educational philosophy in the schools. Some residents say experimentation in education is being emphasized rather than fundamentals.

July 28 — A North Easton tourist writes to selectmen suggesting the Captain John Parker Minute Man Statue be turned around to face the Battle Green. The idea, which was dismissed, stimulates conversation about establishing a safe place to take photographs.

Aug. 1 — The average per capita income in Lexington is \$12,854, according to Sales Management's "Survey of Buying Power." The US average is \$6,784. Lexington is described in the publication as a vigorous, expanding market.



Jean Winchester is named Mrs. Massachusetts of 1963, thanks in part to a prize-winning recipe for Fiesta Shrimp Bake with Pimiento Whirl Biscuits. The Winchesters are, left to right: MaryAnn, 8; Jean; Jodi, 2; Suzanne, 6; Charles, and Carol, 10. (A fifth daughter, Dianne, arrives in 1965.) Photo courtesy of Jean Winchester

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August — Shell Oil Co. of Boston gets Board of Appeals approval to build a gas station opposite the fire station at the junction of Worthen Road and Bedford Street.

August — The School Committee votes down a motion for a “moment of silence” at the beginning of the school day. There was a Bible reading each morning in the Lexington schools prior to a 1962 Supreme Court decision against prayer in school and a recent ruling against religious recitation.

Sept. 8 — Temple Emunah holds an open house at its new building on Piper Road off Route 2. A dedication service with Jewish and Christian clergy and a gala dinner were held during the preceding few days.

Sept. 12 — The Public Works Department meets with concerned Grove Street residents to discuss the removal of 20 large trees in the path of the proposed sidewalk.

Sept. 16 — Selectmen establish the Lexington Executive Park Development Committee to promote development of land already zoned for industrial use.

September — The Board of Appeals gives permission to T & N Realty Trust to build 11 garden apartment buildings with 94 apartments on 8 acres at the corner of Waltham Street and Worthen Road, later named Capt. Parker Arms.

Nov. 25 — About 1,500 people of all faiths attend a Solemn High Mass of Requiem at St. Brigid’s Catholic Church for President John F. Kennedy. Residents reacted with tears and disbelief to news of the assassination three days earlier. Lexington churches and both temples were filled to overflowing over the weekend.

Nov. 25 — Selectmen, responding to a growing awareness that the environment is being pushed to its limits, appoint members to a new Conservation Commission. The first chairman is Jules Sussman.

December — The new religious school planned for St. Brigid’s Church is to be named in honor of the late President John F. Kennedy.

December — Selectmen appoint the first four Housing Authority members with the goal of providing low-cost housing for senior citizens. A fifth member will be appointed by the state.

1964

Population (1960 census) - 27,691

Valuation - \$173,710,440

Fire alarms - 1,351

School enrollment - 7,772

Tax rate - \$38.60/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 794

Dog licenses - 2,187

Building permits - 419

Jan. 6 — The School Committee asks Town Meeting for planning funds for a new elementary school. A school official reports there is a possible site off Reed Street, but other locations are being considered. The committee later also votes to build a second new elementary school on Moreland Avenue because of the need for classroom space in the eastern part of town.

January — The late Ruth Brigham Jackson of Hancock Street leaves land on that street to the Historical Society. The site is where the Hancock-Clarke House stood at the time of the Revolutionary War, across from its present location.

Jan. 27 — The state Dept. of Public Works is starting from scratch on a new study of Route 3 and a possible extension here. The previous plan ran into vigorous opposition.

Feb. 12 — Senators Leverett Saltonstall and Edward M. Kennedy strongly oppose a proposal to move the Electronics Systems Division of Hanscom Air Force Base to Rome, N.Y., to make room for a NASA center at Hanscom.

Feb. 20 — In a written statement, Lexington Protestant and Jewish clergy band together to advocate civil disobedience in a protest against de facto segregation in Boston. On Feb. 26, nearly 100 Lexington students and parents meet with students in the city to focus attention on racial imbalances in education as part of the Boston School Stayout.

Feb. 22 — Of the 175 youths who tried out, 105 are selected for the six teams in the newly-formed Lexington Youth Hockey League.

March 16 — William E. Maloney donates a 1,600-pound bell to replace the badly cracked bell in the 1761 Old Belfry on Clarke Street hill. The replacement was once in the Wilmington Methodist Church.

March 26 — Lexingtonians Rev. John P. Fitzpatrick and Rev. Thomas E. MacLeod, both of St. Brigid's, and Rev. Landon T. Lindsay, the local Methodist minister, are released on bail from a Williamston, N.C., jail. The three had been arrested in the Shamrock Restaurant there during a civil rights demonstration.

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Msgr. George Casey of St. Brigid's sent \$100 bail for each man.

April 6 — The School Committee decides that a handful of sixth-grade classes will be sent over to the two junior highs beginning in the fall, due to lack of space in their own schools.

April 30 — Identical designs for two elementary schools are chosen by the School Committee for Middleby Road and Moreland Avenue sites. The schools will each have two classrooms for emotionally disturbed and mentally retarded students, as required by law when there are five or more eligible children.

June 3 — Four members of the LHS Class of 1904 attend their 60-year reunion at the Lexington Motor Inn. J. Henry Duffy, Bertha M. Hutchinson, George E. Washburn and Eleanor (Worthen) Simpson.

July — The Hayden Recreation Center is adding an ice arena to the facility at Lincoln Street and Worthen Road. The 120- by 240-foot building will cost about \$600,000 and be completed by the fall of 1965.

July 6 — The Pre-First Grade Summer Program begins with a total of 538 children in 21 classes in all nine elementary schools in town.

July 11 — A hootenanny is held at Hastings Park, with proceeds from the folk concert going to the Mississippi Summer Project. The event is sponsored by the Lexington Civil Rights Committee.

July 31 — Police book 21 teenagers for creating a public disturbance near the high school. Teens, some as young as 14, were found after school playing cards and making noise in a pine grove adjacent to Park Drive. Beer was found at the scene.

Aug. 6 — The diorama of the Battle of Lexington usually housed at Cary Library is moved temporarily to a spot adjacent to the Unisphere, part of the New England Industrial Building at the World's Fair in New York.

Aug. 10 — Selectmen appoint a civil rights study group, all former board members — Donald Nickerson, Ruth Morey and Lewis Hoyt. Their charge is to study the human relations problems in town and report to the board by Dec. 1 with recommendations for action.

Aug. 24 — Supt. of Public Works John Carroll informs selectmen that the Lincoln Street dump will close after 30 years of operation; and the Hartwell Avenue site in North Lexington is ready to replace it. The new dump will be closed Sundays on a trial basis.

Sept. 10 — In the primary election, Republicans choose Selectmen

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Chairman Lincoln P. Cole Jr. as their candidate for state representative. He wins the election in November.

Sept. 12 — The Beatles, an English musical group causing international news, land at Bedford Airport's Civilian Terminal and get into a limousine for Boston for their concert at Boston Garden.

Sept. 14 — The Public Facilities Building Committee, appointed a year ago, presents plans for a building to serve tourists near the Battle Green. The exact location is yet to be determined.

Oct. 19 — The dog officer explains he is having trouble with large packs of dogs roaming all the elementary school grounds. At Adams School, four children had been bitten in the past month. Selectmen consider putting a leash law to public vote.

Oct. 24 — The original foundation of the Hancock-Clarke House, both the 1698 main house and the 1734 addition, are discovered 18 inches below grade by historian Roland W. Robbins.

Nov. 22 — A Memorial Mass is celebrated at St. Brigid's Church for the late President John F. Kennedy on the first anniversary of his death. Residents of all faiths attend the service.

Nov. 23 — A Special Town Meeting approves funds to build the two new elementary schools, a visitors' building, an addition to the town barn and to acquire land for elderly housing.

Dec. 20 — A four-day period of ice and snow triggers 20 car accidents and injuries. A police cruiser and fire engine are two of the vehicles damaged over the weekend.

December — Circulation figures at Cary Library confirm records are more popular than ever. A typical record is checked out twice as frequently as a book.

1965

Population (1960 census) - 27,691
Valuation - \$179,091,350
Fire alarms - 1,547
School enrollment - 8,067

Tax rate - \$44/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 873
Dog licenses - 2,104
Building permits - 466

Jan. 11 — The Human Relations Council, formed in 1964 in response to the Civil Rights Act, recommends to selectmen that a committee be formed to fulfill a need for “official town involvement in the process of integrating the American Negro into the community.”

Jan. 22 — Residents are saddened by the sudden death of Town Clerk/Treasurer James J. Carroll after 34 years of service to the town.

February — The Lexington Council of Protestant Churches votes to strike the word “Protestant” from its name in order to include more denominations. The newest to join is St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

March — An NBC team arrives to film a one-hour documentary on teenagers and plans to stay with the project until LHS graduation. The crew films a Prom-Manaders Dance, a meeting of the Bloomsbury Group and a student discussion of T.S. Eliot’s “The Wasteland.”

March 1 — Police Chief John W. Rycroft collapses with a cerebral hemorrhage while driving Secretary of State Kevin White and Town Clerk Mary McDonough to the Town Office Building. Minute-man staff photographer Peter Jorgensen administers oxygen to Rycroft, who dies March 3.

March 8 — Sea gulls flocking to the new Hartwell Avenue dump are causing serious problems on a major runway at Hanscom Field Air Base. Air Force authorities are discussing their concerns with Lexington selectmen.

March 13 — A cross is burned on the lawn of St. Brigid’s Church. The Lexington Minute-man offers \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible. The incident, which was attributed to the Ku Klux Klan, was covered on television news throughout the world.

March 22 — Town Meeting approves \$250,000 for widening Mass. Ave., one step in the revitalization of the business district.

March 24 — Town Meeting votes to buy the 75-acre Swenson Farm for conservation; 20 acres are set aside for a possible school. Also at Town Meeting,

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The Hunt Block, the tall building on the left, housing Lexington businesses since 1892, is about to be razed to widen Mass. Ave. and pave the way for a new building on the corner of Waltham Street. Some stores are moving — Theatre Camera, The Christian Science Reading Room, Moore's Interiors, Carolyn Frocks — but H.M. Lawrence Hardware, is going out of business. In October, the demolition keeps sidewalk superintendents busy for almost two weeks. The Baker Block is in the foreground. Lexington Minuteman photo

the leash law issue is referred to a study committee for a year.

March — The John Guggenheim Memorial Foundation awards fellowships to Earle Lomon, Martin Lubin and Myron Rosenblum.

April 26 — Selectmen give approval to the Public Facilities Building Committee's low bid of \$50,540 for a visitors building to Frank Shiavarini. It will be built on the grounds of

Buckman Tavern, having been approved by the Historic Districts Commission April 22.

April 27 — Artist Carmine Carbone, armed with a knife, hot water and electric iron, safely removes the prized mural of Paul Revere's ride from the wall of the post office so it can be replaced in the building now being remodeled and enlarged. The mural was created in 1939 by well-known Lexington artist A. Lassell Ripley.

April 30 — A power failure leaves 30,000 area homes without electricity. Rumors fly as flames soar 300 feet into the air. The cause is a short circuit in an overhead power line at Marrett Road and Mass. Ave.

May 3 — Bob Hinkley, 11, pitches a no-hit, no-run game, giving the National League San Francisco Giants of Lexington Youth Baseball a 3-0 victory against the Cubs at Center Playground. The pitcher, a right hander, is a sixth-grader at Hancock School.

May 13 — The Committee to Study the Revitalization of Lexington Center, a group of 16 architects and planners, holds a meeting where interested residents brainstorm about development in town.

May 19 — President Lyndon B. Johnson's Project Head Start for poor children authorizes a grant of \$5,640 to help local youngsters, with an emphasis on slow starters rather than on underprivileged children.

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May — A new pesticide by Shell Chemical is being used to combat Dutch elm disease. Administered by Parks Supt. Paul Mazerall, the substance is so powerful that crews wear special coats, plastic masks and helmets.

June — Hayden Recreation Centre hires Albert Moll , who skated with legend Sonja Henie, is named director of the skating facility expected to open in October

June 20 — A cornerstone is laid for the new Trinity Covenant Church on Clematis Road. The 230-member congregation is led by Rev. Edmund Train.

July — The appeals board approves plans for the Lexington Indoor Tennis Club, a private recreation facility on Bedford Street near Eldred Street.

Aug. 1 — Three young boys on an Eldred Street “backyard safari” are startled to hear the sound of an elephant outside their tent at 2:35 in the morning. They run into the house and wake up the family. The elephant, escaped from the circus, was in the Cafarelli family’s backyard.

August — Lexington’s draft call at Local 108 in Woburn takes a sharp upturn in August. In July six men came in for preinduction physicals; this month 161 are called.

August — James Brown, a former resident who is now a Marine in Vietnam, writes a letter to his brother Otis saying he would “pay \$1,000 to be able to lie down at the Lexington Common with a tall glass of iced tea.”

Sept. 26 — The new \$400,000 Grace Chapel sanctuary is dedicated. The Worthen Road church, which began with a Lexington basement Bible study in 1948, is the fastest-growing church west of Boston.

Oct. 15 — Lt. James F. Corr Jr. is named police chief after serving since March as acting chief. He replaces John W. Rycroft.

Nov. 4 — Nearly 100 acres of Great Meadow brush and grassland have been burning the past week. There are other small fires at Pine Meadows golf course, two acres at Routes 2A and 128 and at the town dump. Fire Chief Bernard Belcastro reminds residents there is a ban on outdoor burning that will continue until there is “substantial” rain or snowfall.

Nov. 21 — Thousands come to the Battle Green to see the spectacle of the flag hoisted to the top of the flagpole and stay there, as permission has been given to fly the American flag 24 hours a day. Congressman Bradford Morse, who introduced the bill in Congress, speaks.

Dec. 16 — Lexington’s first resident wounded in the Vietnam fighting is Pfc

Life in Lexington

Peter L. Meadows, 21, who was hit in the arm at Que Son. The LHS graduate is in a Vietnam hospital.

December — A study shows Lexington families do less moving from place to place than other people. The survey reveals 42 out of 100 people in Lexington live in different houses than they did five years ago; the national rate is 47%

1966

Population (1965 census) - 31,388

Valuation - \$184,293,300

Fire alarms - 2,095

School enrollment - 8,264

Tax rate - \$43.60/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 930

Dog licenses - 2,189

Building permits - 479

January — “The World of the Teenager,” an NBC show produced here last year, misses the mark, according to many residents who suggest some teen stars were more troubled than typical.

January — One in seven households gets a Community Attitude Questionnaire seeking opinions on future development, land use and extent and quality of desired services and facilities. Results will be used for long-range planning.

Jan. 17 — The School Committee votes to enroll 25 Boston nonwhite secondary students as part of a request from the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO).

Jan. 24 — The new Pewter Pot Muffin House, 1710 Mass. Ave., features a huge brick fireplace where food is prepared.

-Feb. 5 — Several fights erupt, an argument turns into a wild fistfight and a 17-year-old Somerville boy suffers what appears to be a stab wound at a party hosted by a 19-year-old whose parents are away. Police find several cases of beer plus liquor brought by guests.

February — Three major Center building projects are announced. Work is expected to begin in May on buildings at the former Hunt Block and Central Block sites on Mass. Ave. Minute-man Publications plans to build on Meriam Street.

Feb. 7 — Selectmen extend a test parking ban in parts of the Center. A number of merchants believe it is hurting business. Selectmen will consider their concerns.

February — Police report a record number of accidents last month — 136 crashes, three fatal.

February — “What’s right with Lexington teenagers” is the theme of the LHS newspaper High Spot. The editors feel the NBC special was an unfair representation.

Life in Lexington

Feb. 24 — The town has an option to buy 11 acres of West Farm fields and sledding slopes off Oak Street.

March 5 — The Colonial Coffee House in Depot Square, a popular breakfast spot for Center business people, burns and will not reopen.

March 23 — Town Meeting approves buying the Cotton property off Highland Avenue and land off Laconia, Lowell and Woburn streets for conservation.

March 24 — A Manor section ranch home on a wooded lot — three bedrooms, dining room, two fireplaces, eat-in kitchen, garage, town sewer and swimming pool — is selling for \$27,900.

March — Dolores Hidalgo, Mexico, becomes Lexington's sister city through the People-to-People Program.

March 28 — Town Meeting appropriates \$60,000 for Center revitalization that will include pedestrian promenades, grass plots and planting of trees on the avenue.

March 30 — Town Meeting endorses a zoning change that will allow Ginn and Co., Boston educational publishers, to build a \$3M building at Route 2 and Spring Street.

April 19 — Ronald Servi, 12, finds a 1723 British copper half-penny during a Historical Society "dig" at the former Hancock-Clarke House site. The dig is part of a program which seeks volunteers to sift through the excavated soils.

May 22 — Hayden Recreation Centre dedicates its ice facility and stages an ice show starring 497 youngsters.

May 23 — Today's TV news shows Peacock Farm area residents picketing state DPW Commissioner Francis Sargent at a conference. They are protesting a Route 2/Watertown Street interchange plan.



In 1966, the "little old beltry" the Chamber of Commerce built on Buckman Tavern grounds as a tourist booth is sold at auction to William E. Maloney. He moves it to Burlington where it becomes part of a barn for his niece's horse. A new visitors center is built near the tavern. Lexington Minuteman photo

Life in Lexington

June 2 — Architect William Roger Greeley, born in 1881, is the oldest grad at Hancock School's 75th Diamond Jubilee tea.

June 3 — The proprietor of Colonial Pharmacy pleads guilty to receiving stolen property and is ordered to pay a \$500 fine.

June — A Special Town Meeting approves parking violation tags for cars, acquiring 36 acres on Whipple Hill and a \$425,000 project at the Bedford Street DPW Building.

July — Cambridge awards a contract to dredge the Hobbs Brook (or Cambridge) Reservoir, restoring 50M gallons of water storage lost in Routes 2 and 128 construction. It means Lexington will lose two islands, some peninsulas and shoreline.

July 20 — The walls of the Center's Baker Block come tumbling down with the help of heavy equipment. New England Land Corp. buys the Mass. Ave. property where Harvard Trust (BayBank) will later build a branch bank.

August — Minute Man National Historical Park acquires 374 of 670 acres earmarked for purchase. A master plan calls for a major visitors center on Route 2A and smaller centers at Concord Bridge and a Wayside unit.

Sept. 1 — The state will not extend Route 3 south of Route 128 at this time, citing serious economic effect on either Lexington or Winchester and the fact that Boston-bound traffic can easily travel to Routes 2 or 93 in little more time or distance.

Sept. 5 — Five police officers break up a gang fight after a Country Fair at Parker Field. As many as 60 youths are involved. No serious injuries are reported. Some youths are questioned. All are assured they face court charges for repeat performances.

Sept. 8 — Bridge Elementary School opens on Middleby Road.

Sept. 8 — Twenty-five junior and senior high students from Boston start their education here as part of the METCO program, eight in junior high school and nine at LHS.

Sept. 29 — Four youths (one from Boston, two residents and one former resident) are arrested in a continuing investigation into marijuana use. Police say the two local youths "cooked" marijuana in the oven at one of their homes, then shared it with several friends.

Life in Lexington

Oct. 17 — The School Committee votes unanimously to establish kindergarten in schools as of September.

Nov. 8 — In response to a state ballot question, voters say they want liquor served in the town's two hotels, the Battle Green Inn and Lexington Motor Inn. Before obtaining a license, the hotels must apply to selectmen and be present at a public hearing.

Nov. 13 — Members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints consecrate their church at 1386 Mass. Ave.

December — A new Center traffic pattern allows right turns only exiting Clarke Street onto Mass. Ave.

Dec. 12 — After 75 residents protest, selectmen decide a 200-year-old elm opposite Munroe Tavern does not have to be cut for street widening.

Dec. 22 — Peacock Farm residents lose a battle as state DPW Commissioner Edward Ribbs recommends installing the original loop ramps for Route 2 and Watertown Street.

Dec. 24 — On Christmas Eve, Ernest Tavilla helps deliver a present at the family's home on Blodgett Road. Daughter Stacey, the Tavillas' eighth child, arrives shortly before 3 a.m. Mother Virginia and baby are fine. The seven other Tavillas sleep through the excitement.

1967

Population (1965 census) - 31,388
Valuation - \$192,651,950
Fire alarms - 1,481
School enrollment - 9,110

Tax rate - \$47/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 1,029
Dog licenses - 2,252
Building permits - 436

Jan. 6 — Nine Somerville men join the police force, thanks to legislation sponsored by state Rep. Lincoln P. Cole Jr., the first time the department is at full strength in 15 years.

January — Brigham's Ice Cream, a Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalog and appliance store and Anderson's Jewelers move into the new 1775 Realty Trust Building at Mass. Ave. and Depot Square.

Feb. 2 — A helicopter pilot radios for help after spotting a man lying across the train tracks near Bedford Street, his clothing afire. The victim, DPW worker Joseph Vitale, was burning papers behind the DPW barn when a gasoline can exploded. Thanks to the pilot, Vitale is recovering at Symmes Hospital.

Feb. 18 — Realtor Robert Lyon is the first to donate conservation land to the town. The property, which includes 17 parcels in the Meagherville area, overlooks the third hole of the Pine Meadows golf course.

February — Citizens for Lexington Conservation forms to encourage open-space acquisition and long-range planning.

March 13 — Selectmen pledge to help the Historical Society save Buckman Tavern. Beetles are attacking the historic tavern. It may close if funds aren't found for extensive repairs.

March — For the first time, the Lexington Council of Churches youth group will sponsor a communitywide ecumenical Easter sunrise service on Lexington Green.

March 30 — Town Meeting approves \$10,000 to acquire a Marrett Road parcel for access to a future school site off Highland Avenue. Members also vote to build a new instructional pool, obtain preliminary plans for a new junior high school and endorse a townwide beautification plan.

April 3 — The Felix Cutler Bird Club forms and the first field trip will include visits to local bird feeders.

April 3 — Town Meeting adopts regulations for swimming pools after the building commissioner issues a record 30 permits in 1966. Members also appropriate \$70,000 for conservation land — 32 acres on Whipple Hill, 23 acres off Redcoat Lane and 6.5 acres off Longfellow Road.

April 24 — While installing a water main, a state DPW crew uncovers a foundation wall of the original Parker homestead on Spring Street. It was built about 1711 by the first John Parker. His grandson, Capt. John Parker, left this home April 19, 1775, to command the local militia.



Agnes Bongiorno of Craft Cleaners comes to the rescue in January when Minuteman Council Boy Scouts need a dry cleaning machine big enough to hold a 35-pound flag for a council exposition. Scouts pose with the flag at the Minute Man Statue, then take the 20 by 30-foot flag down Mass. Ave. to the cleaners. Lexington Minuteman photo

May — Ground is broken for a 53-store shopping center in Burlington, the mall Filene's had wanted to build off Routes 2 and 128 in Lexington.

May 19 — "Broadway on Ice" at Hayden's rink features 600 skaters, mostly children.

May 25 — When officials arrive at Cary Hall for a Civil Defense exercise, they find a raging storm had snapped a wire and cut off power. The CD rescue truck's generator saves the day and the simulated nuclear attack exercise is completed.

May — Neighbors vow to fight a Board of Appeals decision allowing a 160-bed nursing home on Bryant Road behind Emerson Gardens apartments.

June — The health board urges state officials to move swiftly on a trunk sewer line plan. Since the current line into Arlington can't accept the full Lexington-Bedford flow, raw sewage is spilling from manholes into ditches that carry storm waters to the Arlington Res.

June 12 — A Special Town Meeting approves \$25,000 to repair Buckman Tavern; \$16,000 for a Hartwell Avenue-Bedford Street traffic survey and \$28,000 for a new force sewer main. A \$30,000 Emerson Road extension plan is defeated.

Life in Lexington

June 15 — Town Meeting rezones land off Worthen Road for an office building and approves a request to build a funeral chapel adjacent to Grace Chapel on Worthen Road.

July 1 — Minute Man National Historical Park's Fiske Hill Information Center opens.

July 10 — A single-session day is approved for pupils in grades 1-6 next fall when hot lunches will be available in all schools.

July 24 — Despite neighbors' protests against dust, dirt and danger, selectmen vote to continue dumping Mystic River fill on the old Lincoln Street dump. The plan is to develop the area for recreation. Using the fill saves about \$200,000.

August — Police Chief James Corr, increasingly concerned about youths loitering outside Center stores, sends 15 warnings to parents, threatening court action for second offenders. Police say the anti-loitering law will be enforced.

Sept. 7 — On the first day of public kindergarten, school enrollment reaches a new high of more than 9,000 students.

September — The Lexington Council of Churches sponsors a pilot course in Family Life and Sex Education for ninth-graders.

September — Instrumentation Laboratory and the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. receive permits to build on Hartwell Avenue.



A Dec. 10 general alarm fire destroys Gold Ribbon Farms' main building at 1265 Mass. Ave. Damage is estimated at \$250,000.

Photo by Ray Barnes/Lexington Historical Society archives

Sept. 21 — Ground is broken for the town's William Roger Greeley Village, 100 units of low-income housing for the elderly.

September — Police now have the stun gun which renders a person helpless for up to 30 minutes.

October — Selectmen are ready to issue criminal complaints for violating new restrictions on leaf burning. To burn outdoors, a permit

Life in Lexington

must be obtained from the fire department.

Nov. 4 — Police Officer James Hodgdon, 23, dies in the line of duty when his cruiser crashes on Route 2 near Spring Street. His name would be inscribed on a memorial on the Police Station lawn nearly 30 years later.

Nov. 6 — A selectmen's hearing on the proposed Worthen Road extension draws such a large crowd, the session is moved from Estabrook Hall upstairs to Cary Hall. Most of those at the meeting strongly oppose the selectmen's plan to extend Worthen Road to Route 2. No decision is reached.

Nov. 12 — About 3,000 people affirm their support for the soldiers in Vietnam at a Battle Green rally planned by two LHS seniors. The event begins just as a weekly peace vigil ends.

November — The former Bateman's clothing and home decorating store at 1690 Mass. Ave. is replaced by Ye Olde Bargain Barn family apparel shop. This building, which later becomes Decelle's, was once used as a bowling alley. Edwards Dept. Store opens in Lexington Plaza on Bedford Street. In September, Frank Bateman opened a new Home Decorating Center at 400 Waltham St. at the corner of Route 2A.

Nov. 15 — A sneak snow storm creates a traffic snarl so bad it takes an East Lexington resident five hours to get home from Bedford. About 45 Muzzey students wait for the school bus until 6:30 p.m. when the custodian calls police. The last student gets home at 9 p.m.

Dec. 3 — Police raid a house at 2 a.m., arresting nine youths at the height of what officers call a "typical pot party — blaring rock 'n' roll, marijuana cigarettes and plenty of whiskey and beer."

Dec. 19 — The fate of a red house next to the old Robbins Cemetery on Mass. Ave. is unresolved after the appeals board denies permission to build a four-family unit there. Selectmen had condemned the building and ordered it be made safe or demolished.

December — Police, who have been using the Breathalyzer for five years to test persons suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol, may now use it without a suspect's consent after passage of a new state law.

1968

Population (1965 census) - 31,388
Valuation - \$198,866,200
Fire alarms - 1,696
School enrollment - 9,455

Tax rate - \$53.80/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 999
Dog licenses - 2,281
Building permits - 421

Jan. 1 — A Randolph man is injured when his car strikes the Minute Man Statue at 3:02 a.m. The driver is taken to the hospital. Police say Capt. Parker is unscathed.

Jan. 6, 7 — A new storm slams into an already blanketed town. Temperatures dip to 20 degrees below zero.

Jan. 11 — A two-alarm fire races from Minute Man Auto Supply, 1845 Mass. Ave., to adjacent Lexington Liquor Mart. The \$15,000 blaze began with a blowtorch used to thaw a pipe. Liquor Mart mascot, Polly the Parrot, is rescued and in fine voice.

Jan. 19 — A wild chase and midnight burial are part of "Doublecross," a silent gangster film directed by LHS students Nym Cooke and Dave Grayson. The 16mm black-and-white film, created last summer by 55 local teens, debuts tonight.

February — A Superior Court judge upholds the appeals board's decision to allow a nursing home on Bryant Road.

February — A long-haired LHS male student is sent home and told not to come back without his locks properly shorn. After he complies and returns to school, students circulate protest petitions noting the hair length of Mozart and Paul Revere.

Feb. 16 — Police seek those responsible for defacing seven paintings in a Cary Library exhibit. The paintings show blacks being murdered, clubbed and otherwise abused. Library officials say the vandalism appears to have racial overtones.

Feb. 26 — Traffic on Route 128 stalls as pigs escape following a truck accident and run loose near the Bedford Street ramp. State troopers corral some of the porkers. Police say the pigs were stolen and were to be sold by the truck driver, who is arrested.

Life in Lexington

March — A group plans to ask Arlington Town Meeting to take steps that could turn the Arlington-owned Great Meadow in Lexington into a municipal golf course. A report says the course would be a real benefit to Arlington. Lexington selectmen are fuming.

March 20, 21 — Millions of gallons of raw sewage pour from sewer lines into surface water drains in a two-day rainstorm and gale. Cellars flood and firefighters are hopping.

April 1 — Town Meeting approves \$10,000, to be used with Arlington funds, for a hydrological study to determine proper development and use of the Great Meadow.

April 3, 4 — Town Meeting soundly defeats a proposed dog leash law. Members earmark \$70,000 for 17 acres of conservation land off Utica Street. A request by the Corazzini brothers to rezone 9.6 acres between Blossom Street and Lawn Avenue for 75 town houses fails to get the required two-thirds majority. On April 4, members approve funds to extend the Meriam Street parking lot and to begin the first phase of a plan to turn the former Lincoln Street dump into a recreation area.

April 8 — Most Center stores close to honor the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. Clergy meet at the First Baptist Church to pay tribute to the slain civil rights leader after his April 4 assassination.

April — The School Committee adds 65 students to the METCO program.

May — A huge controversy is set off after Christian Science Monitor editor-in-chief Erwin D. Canham charges Lexington police with racial discrimination in the Patriots Day arrest of a 14-year-old Negro boy. Chief James Corr denies the charges, noting the boy was not arrested, just questioned. Canham and Corr seek apologies from each other. Neither gets one. The Civil Rights Committee is disturbed. Boston media cover Canham's May 6 meeting with selectmen.

June 3 — A Special Town Meeting approves the Selectmen-Town Manager form of government. Selectmen remain policy makers but a manager will carry out their plans. After debate, a dog leash law and funds for a dog officer get "yes" votes. A request to allow selectmen to erect an outdoor monument listing names of Vietnam veterans is rejected. A memorial is later placed outside Cary Hall honoring those who fought in Vietnam and Korea.

June 25 — A Commission on Suburban Responsibility forms to study town needs and responsibilities as a member of a larger community.

Life in Lexington

July 1 — Town Meeting's vote favoring a dog leash law is upheld in a referendum. The law states all dogs must be controlled by a leash or effective voice command.

August — Chamber of Commerce officials tell selectmen that parking meters in town lots are hurting business. A group will explore possible solutions, including warning tickets.

Aug. 14 — Honeywell Inc. dedicates its electro-optical research lab on Forbes Road. Itek Corp. builds a new headquarters near its Maguire Road/Hartwell Avenue complex.

Aug. 22 — The Knights of Columbus converts the old Middlesex & Boston Railway Power House off Bedford Street into its council headquarters.

Sept. 9 — At 9,405 students, Lexington becomes the state's 20th largest school system.

Sept. 11 — At a Special Town Meeting, selectmen are authorized to accept federal funds toward the cost of building a new sewer line from the North Lexington Pumping Station to a main in Hamilton Road.

September — Consultants recommend a \$15M Hanscom Field expansion to help relieve Boston area air traffic problems. Area residents are concerned.

Oct. 24 — Munroe Tavern faces major reconstruction due to wood beetle and fungus damage. The Historical Society needs \$17,000 for repairs.

November — The Parks Dept. begins Old Res improvements — draining water, clearing rocks and adding sand to the beach.

Dec. 3 — Moderate-income housing is the main topic at a Commission on Suburban Responsibility meeting. Developer Harmon White outlines plans for a moderate-income development of 110 units on 12 acres off Woburn Street near the train tracks. White will proceed if he believes the town supports it. Rezoning would be required.

Dec. 5 — Animal control officer Francis Belcastro has picked up 240 dogs since he began enforcing the leash law Oct. 14. Forty were placed in a pound at Dr. Howard Smith's veterinary office on Bedford Street until their owners claimed them and paid boarding fees.

Dec. 26 — Workmen uncover an 18th-century fieldstone well at Munroe Tavern under the rear shed's flooring. It was likely a gathering place for thirsty troops April 19, 1775.

1969

Population (1965 census) - 31,388

Valuation - \$205,786,150

Fire alarms - 1,887

School enrollment - 9,609

Tax rate - \$59.80/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 1,135

Dog licenses - 2,265

Building permits - 346

January — The Planning Board completes a study of possible ways to provide more housing for low- and moderate-income families in apartments and scattered-site homes.

January — After more than 27 years in Lexington, Peter's Music at 1711 Mass. Ave. closes its doors.

January — About 1,000 residents have complied with a state law requiring firearms' owners to register by Jan. 1. Violators face a \$500 fine or imprisonment, or both, for the first offense.

Feb. 3 — The Drug Abuse Committee says it needs a part-time social worker and office. Selectmen want more facts.

Feb. 6 — The Lexington Academy of the Holy Family on Pelham Road will close in June.

Feb. 7 — Three LHS students meet with school Supt. Rudolph Fobert to express concern after two fights between students living in town and Boston students in the METCO program. The trio represents 125 who walked out of classes earlier and marched to the School Administration Building. The fights are the first reported here since the METCO program began three years ago.

Feb. 9, 10 — The worst storm in years brings 2 feet of snow and winds up to 60 mph, closing Routes 2 and 128.

Feb. 24 — Another 24 inches of snow falls. Students are sent home hours after they had returned to school following February vacation.

March 3 — About 26% of eligible voters brave a storm, giving final approval to the Selectmen-Town Manager Act.

March 6 — The Woburn Street Improvement Association opposes rezoning land between Woburn and Maple streets for low- or moderate-income housing.

Life in Lexington

March 11 — Two 15-year-old LHS students are arrested after an officer finds a case with marijuana in the snow. One boy is charged with possession of narcotics, the other with being present where narcotics are found.

March 24 — Town Meeting rezones 42 acres on Hayden Avenue for research/office use and votes to spend \$132,500 to acquire 63 adjacent acres as a conservation land buffer.

April 14 — The Board of Health votes to order fluoride content of town drinking water be increased to 1.0 parts per million. Signatures of 10% of registered voters are needed within 90 days to bring the question to Town Meeting or place it on the ballot. The town clerk records just 100 signatures in 1969.

April 21 — An estimated 150,000 watch the Patriots Day parade. It is the first time festivities are held on a Monday, the day the state Legislature designated for the celebration. Concord continues to celebrate on April 19.

April 24 — The Lexington Association for Moderate Cost Housing meets to adopt bylaws and elect officers.

April — A \$1.85M connector between Hartwell Avenue and Route 128 would reduce accident rates and improve access to Hartwell Avenue and Bedford Street, a consultant's report says. The road would meet Hartwell near Instrumentation Lab, joining Route 128 near Pine Meadows golf course and the Tophet Swamp.

April 26 — Archibald MacLeish reads his poems at Cary Hall as part of the Cary Lecture Series and Cary Library's centennial celebration. Hundreds crowd the library April 27 to honor more than 200 contemporary Lexington authors.

April 28 — Plans for a 144-room motel at Hartwell Avenue and Bedford Street are unveiled. Three motel chains are interested in the site already zoned for this use.

May 4 — Dr. Benjamin Spock, author of "Baby and Child Care," blasts American policy in Vietnam before 1,000 at the LHS auditorium. Most applaud. A handful protest outside.

May 6, 7 — LHS students air issues related to the METCO program. Principal Charles Johnson suggests one way to reduce tensions is to make sure Boston students are not treated as "guests" but as full members of the student population.

May 12 — Selectmen congratulate Police Officer Robert Hickey who is credited with capturing three suspected bank robbers. He spotted their car last Thursday on Mason Street.

May 22 — Investigation continues into last Friday's shooting of a 17-year-old LHS student in the meadow behind Adams School. The youth remains on the danger list at Symmes Hospital where he was taken after other teens sought help. They told police the boy had been drinking, then pointed a gun at his head and fell backwards.

June 2 — Town Meeting votes to build a \$5.5M junior high school on Stedman Road. Members approve plans to expand the Town Office Building and Police Station and to buy a lot next to Cary Library for parking and possible library expansion.

June 12 — The championship LHS chess team wins 12 straight, to post a 13-1-1 record in the West Suburban League. Co-captains are Miles Dudley and Rob Kent.

June 25 — In a referendum, voters reverse Town Meeting's approvals for the new junior high and a town bylaw amendment assuring equal employment opportunities for minorities.

July — A car registration number provided by citizens helps police identify and arrest a man who allegedly left his car, hid in the Munroe Tavern bushes and assaulted a 15-year-old girl July 2 about 11:10 p.m. The girl was treated for cuts.

July 17 — A group of residents on Shade and Spring streets files a suit against the appeals board for approving a 95-foot radio tower that Raytheon Co. plans to install on Spring Street.

July 27 — Operation Lady Slipper is a big success. Citizens for Lexington Conservation President Manfred Friedman and Vice President Frank Bramley direct 16 volunteers who move nearly 100 wild orchids from rezoned land along Hayden Avenue to safer surroundings deep inside the Hayden Woods conservation area.

July — There is no Old Res swimming this summer after bids to build a facilities house far exceed funds appropriated.

August — A third Center complex outdoor swimming pool is dedicated to retired parks/recreation chief John Garrity.

Aug. 18 — A Special Town Meeting approves \$25,000 to obtain preliminary

Life in Lexington

plans for a junior high school on Stedman Road after an earlier proposal was rejected in a referendum.

Aug. 25 — Services are held for a 15-year-old boy who drowned at the town-owned North Street sand pit. Swimming is banned at the pond reported to be 40 feet deep in places.

November — The Lexington Senior Citizens Club, formed four years ago, has grown from 50 to more than 500 members.

November — A multifamily housing proposal for the Napoli (Idylwilde) Farm at Marrett Road and Middle Street calls for 220 to 240 units, town houses and two seven-story buildings.

Dec. 22 — Lexington's first town manager will be Walter C. O'Connell, a consultant to municipal and state governments. He is the unanimous choice of selectmen. Al Gray, the selectmen's executive assistant, was a finalist.

1970

Population - 31,886
Valuation - \$214,984,000
Fire alarms - 1,729
School enrollment - 9,459

Tax rate - \$65/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 1,052
Dog licenses - 2,369
Building permits - 374

January — The number of working wives is on the rise with 29.1% of the area's married women employed full time outside the home. In 1960, the figure was 22.1%.

Jan. 8 — Thursday-evening duplicate bridge games resume at the Old Belfry Club.

Jan. 10 — At a Cary Lecture, national consumer advocate Ralph Nader blasts water/air pollution and hot dogs, which he calls "innovations to relieve food companies of all their crud."

Jan. 12 — Selectmen declare Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, paralleling action across much of the country.

Jan. 22 — Barrels are placed outside the Bedford Street DPW barn to collect certain "hard" pesticides, including DDT, DDD and dieldrin, that were banned for outdoor use Jan. 1.

Feb. 12 — In meetings sponsored by the League of Women Voters, some parents question the value of experimental school programs and teaching methods. Reaction to team-teaching, however, is favorable.

February — All households receive a questionnaire seeking opinions about school programs in human development and human relations including family living, sex education and interpersonal relations.

Feb. 27 — Teachers agree to a 10.6% salary increase.

March — It is estimated 490 Lexington women and men are divorced or separated compared to 350 in 1960.

March — John Janusas is named to the Mass. High School Football Coaches Association's Hall of Fame. His football career dates back to the early 1930s when he played on LHS squads; he later returned to the school as a coach.

Life in Lexington

March — Re-place has a switchboard, professional counseling facilities, a youth advisory board and volunteers to provide a wide range of services to teens and their parents. It is located on the second floor of the Hancock Church building, under the Attic Coffee House.

March 10 — Special Forces Medic Stephen A. Spiers, 25, is the first resident to die in Vietnam.

March 23 — Town Meeting approves the RH rezoning concept for subsidized housing. This multifamily zone, which allows 12 units per acre, requires reserving at least 40% of units for low- or moderate-income families. To encourage subsidized housing, the RH zone has more lenient standards for frontage, street access and parking. Members also vote to rezone land off Winthrop and Vine Brook roads for low-income elderly housing.

April 1 — A plan to create Lexington's first RH subsidized housing zone, the 176-unit Idylwilde Farm proposal off Marrett Road, is defeated at Town Meeting. Two other rezoning plans also fail, proposed apartments off Concord Avenue and off Maple Street.

April 15 — When a brook bank near Franklin School caves in, a 10-year-old bay mare slips in the mud and its owner, Cindy Parsons, falls off into the brook. She is able to reach the bank but the horse gets stuck in neck-deep mud. Staff from the Fire Dept. rescue unit put one end of a hose around the horse and the other end on a winch. Help from a second truck is needed before the horse is set free.

April 20 — Patriots Day crowds need raincoats and umbrellas to watch the parade. Police are busy over the weekend with school windows broken, obscenities painted on LHS walls, damaged cars and 11 youths arrested for disorderly conduct, one for assault and battery on a police officer.

April 27 — In a referendum, a majority votes to reverse Town Meeting's approval of Town Office Building expansion and Police Station renovations, but the total is 145 votes shy of the 2,983 needed to defeat the plans.

May 3 — The School Committee agrees to continue developing a sex education curriculum. Members also hear about the new drug education program.

May 19 — Jimmy Saunders, 10, spends more than two hours in the mud after he slipped in a swampy area off Bryant Road. A friend called Jimmy's mother who tried to extricate him. A neighbor called the Fire Dept. and a high-pressure hose is used to drive mud away from the boy's feet.

May 23, 24 — At the request of three Muzzey Junior High students, the

Life in Lexington

Battle Green flag is at half staff for the four students shot by the National Guard at Kent State University and all premature deaths caused by hate. About 200 persons attended a May 8 memorial service on the Battle Green in memory of the Kent State students.

June 15 — A sophomore at LHS drowns in the Old Res, which was to become a public swim area June 22. Selectmen delay the opening to check out all safety precautions.

July — Oak leaf skeletonizer is striking Lexington trees. Tree Warden Paul Mazerall says it first appeared in 1961. The leaf-eating pest especially favors red and black oaks.

July 18 — About 1,300 swimmers enjoy opening day at the Old Res. Aerators circulate water to help prevent stagnation.

Aug. 17 — Three colonial-type streetlights on black metal poles have been installed near the corner of Bedford Street and Harrington Road. If they meet town approval, Boston Edison will install 17 more in the Battle Green area.

Aug. 24 — Ceremonies on the Battle Green honoring the 50th year of Women's Suffrage are followed by services in First Parish Church.

September — Painting begins at the Hancock-Clarke House. Sears, Roebuck and Co. will pay for the work in return for showcasing the house in a TV ad. A light "curry" color is chosen after analysis of a paint chip from the house.

Sept. 22 — Dunkin' Donuts at Waltham Street and Marrett Road gets a common victualler's license but can't be open 24 hours a day.

Sept. 24 — The Lexington Home for Aged People, 2027 Mass. Ave., gets a new name, the Dana Home of Lexington.

October — High accident sites for 1968-69 are: Bedford Street at Hartwell Avenue, Marrett Road at Waltham Street, Mass. Ave. at Waltham Street, Mass. Ave. at Pleasant Street, Hartwell Avenue at Maguire Road, Waltham Street at Concord Avenue, Bedford Street at Harrington Road and Marrett Road at Lincoln and School streets.

October — A written permit is now required for leaf burning. The town will supply leaf bags at cost to residents. The action follows a state ban on all open burning effective July 1, 1971, with some exceptions including outdoor cooking.

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Nov. 5, 12 — The School Committee answers questions about its Advanced Program created a decade ago to help realize the full potential of intellectually gifted children.

Nov. 19 — The town has received more than \$210 in revenue since Lexington contracted in mid-August to have its reclaimable newspaper and magazines collected from the landfill.

December — Seven-year-old Ann Crocco uses a hockey stick to rescue Jimmy English, 8, when he falls through ice on the pond behind Adams School.

1971

Population (1970 census) - 33,400
Valuation - \$224,822,420
Fire alarms - 1,910
School enrollment - 9,254

Tax rate - \$63.80/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 1,143
Dog licenses - 2,944
Building permits - 327

Jan. 11 — Town Meeting unanimously approves \$4.3M for a junior high school, a scaled-down version of the original plan.

Jan. 12 — The Lexington Lions Club celebrates its 35th anniversary at the Old Belfry Club. When it began in 1936, members met at the Old Coffee House and at Lexington Savings Bank before moving to the Old Belfry Club.

Jan. 14 — Raids in Lexington and four other communities — Acton, Bedford, Billerica and Concord — result in the arrests of more than 50 young people, ages 13 through 22, on charges involving the sale and possession of narcotics.

Feb. 19 — The town's new center for junior high school students opens at the First Baptist Church, a place for students at Muzzey and Diamond schools to meet and socialize three times a week.

March 2 — A two-alarm fire at LHS damages a second-floor art classroom, an office and a corridor. The Fire Dept. terms the cause "of suspicious origin."

March 11 — For the first time in the town's history, teachers stage a demonstration in support of contract negotiators. About 300 teachers march and carry signs for 15 minutes at the School Administration Building, where negotiations between the School Dept. and Lexington Education Association are being held.

March 25 — The Lexington boys' varsity basketball team beats Boston English High School 63-60 at Boston Garden, winning its first state championship in the seven-year history of the tournament.

May 3 — Detective Sergeant George W. (Mike) Forten is the first recipient of the police dept.'s new Medal of Merit, given for outstanding service by an officer.

June 3 — Lexington Savings Banks celebrates its 100th birthday of incor-

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The 97-year-old Central Block at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Meriam Street burns Feb. 11, the first general alarm fire in town. The cause is unknown, but the fire originated in the Freaque Boutique at 1849 Mass. Ave. There are no injuries. Damage totals \$250,000 and owners Ernest Giroux and George Matheson have the structure razed two weeks later. Lexington Historical Society archives

poration with a centennial dinner at the Lexington Sheraton Motor Inn. Other events include an essay contest for young people and a slide show by S. Lawrence Whipple, Historical Society historian. The bank opened in 1871 with 59 accounts totaling \$1,832.50; it now has \$42.9M in assets.

June 8 — More than 1,000 individuals crowd Cary Hall to hear opinions of the way the selectmen handled the Vietnam

Veterans Memorial Day weekend encampment and the subsequent arrests.

June 14 — A Special Town Meeting authorizes selectmen to give a portion of town land on Meriam Street to the owners of the Central Block in exchange for a 15-foot setback on Mass. Ave. to create more visibility of the Buckman Tavern for westbound travelers.

June 21 — The School Committee votes to include a nonvoting LHS student on its board.

July 26 — Selectmen unanimously deny permission for the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice to march up Mass. Ave. on Aug. 5. The marchers would spend the night at the Lexington United Methodist Church before marching to Hanscom Field in an effort to block all four entrances.

Aug. 6 — Lexington and Bedford police, assisted by the state police, arrest 105 people who block two entrances to Hanscom Field. The protesters, organized by the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, are charged with disorderly conduct and blocking streets.

August — The school system will save about \$84,351 in employment costs thanks to President Richard Nixon's wage freeze.

Sept. 28 — The Historic Districts Commission disapproves the plans for the new Central Block, objecting to the combined exterior architectural styles.

October — Dan H. Fenn Jr. of Worthen Road is named director of the new

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John F. Kennedy Library and museum complex at Columbia Point. Fenn, a lecturer at the Harvard Business School, spent two years in the White House as a presidential aide when Kennedy was president.

Oct. 5 — The Board of Appeals votes to let the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and Scottish Rite Masonic Library expand its library and museum and build a 400-seat auditorium at Mass. Ave. and Marrett Road.

Oct. 18 — Occupants quietly move into the larger, newly remodeled Town Office Building from temporary quarters in Cary Hall next door. The cost of the work is about \$950,000.

Oct. 25 — Selectmen approve a two-day survey of the town's drug treatment facilities under the supervision of PREP, the county drug program. The survey is part of an effort to evaluate the town's ability to deal with drug abuse.

Oct. 27 — Plans to renovate and expand Cary Library by 32,000 square feet at an estimated cost of \$200,000 to \$300,000 are presented to trustees by architects.

Oct. 31 — Alan G. Adams retires from Minuteman Publications and the Lexington Minute-man, a newspaper he joined in 1930, writing stories for five cents each. He bought the paper in 1932. His wife, Rebecca, who has worked with her husband since their marriage in 1935, is also retiring. The Adamses sold the company to seven investors, including Minuteman Publications' employees Leon Burke and Robert Benoit.

Nov. 8 — Groundbreaking ceremonies are held for Vinebrook Village, a 48-unit town housing project for the elderly off Waltham Street.

Nov. 13 — A handful of adults accompany 350 young people who assemble at Parker Field for a 16-mile Walk for Mankind.

Dec. 5 — The Lexington McGovern for President Committee kicks off a primary campaign with a fund-raising party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Webb. The keynote speaker is economist John Kenneth Galbraith.

Dec. 10 — Joseph M. Cronin of Vaille Avenue, associate dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, is named the new Massachusetts secretary of education by Gov. Francis Sargent.

Dec. 30 — The Lexington Minute-man newspaper celebrates its 100th anniversary of continuous publication with a special anniversary edition.

Dec. 30 — A plucky grandmother defies state troopers and state DPW

employees who try to move a crane onto her land at Route 2 and Pleasant Street.

Charlotte Sanderson is hauled from her chair and arrested for trespassing. Her case is continued. Two years ago she had been notified her land would be taken by eminent domain.



Police arrest 410 Vietnam Veterans Against the War and their supporters on May 30 for defying a court injunction banning camping overnight on the Battle Green without selectmen's permission. The next day, more than 340 pay fines of \$5 or \$10 and their cases are dismissed; others are released on bail and their cases continued. The 168 residents arrested include Rev. John Crowley of St. Brigid's and Rev. Richard Harding of First Parish Church. The previous week, selectmen unanimously turned down the group's request to camp out, either on the Green or Tower Park, and march through town demonstrating guerrilla tactics. Photo by Ted Polumbaum

1972

Population (1971 census) - 33,412

Valuation - \$229,869,980

Fire alarms - 1,769

School enrollment - 9,081

Tax rate - \$65/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 1,084

Dog licenses - 2,790

Building permits - 360

January — The outside walls of the new Jonas Clarke Junior High School are in place; construction is on schedule, with an expected completion date of October.

Jan. 9 — A crowd of about 400 attends an open house at the Police Station and the dedication of the remodeled Town Office Building. Five Philip Parsons paintings of Lexington scenes are unveiled and presented to the town, a gift of Depositors Trust Co.

Jan. 24 — Ground is broken for the Giroux Building, a one-story building to replace the Central Block that was razed last February. The building is expected to be completed by August.

Jan. 25 — Monsignor George W. Casey leaves as pastor of St. Brigid's Church after 52 years as a priest. The new pastor is Monsignor John P. Keilty, who comes from St. Patrick's Parish in Roxbury.

Jan. 29 — Cary Lecture speaker, US Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, addresses a capacity crowd in Cary and Estabrook halls. He is introduced by the Rev. Robert Zoerheide, First Parish Church minister and a personal friend.

February — The Historical Society provides \$300 for work for a large elm tree at Munroe Tavern that dates from the 1600s.

Feb. 12 — Callers to the School Dept. now get a recorded message. They may choose hot news, general announcements or School Committee news. More than 200 calls are counted during daytime hours the first week.

Feb. 16 — Selectmen Chairman Robert Cataldo tells 40 residents at a Cary Hall meeting that installation of traffic signals at Bedford and Eldred streets is the top traffic priority in town. Residents have worked for 10 years to make the busy intersection safer.

March — The Lexington Bicentennial Committee is working to develop a

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budget for the celebration, determining the amount and a way of financing it. Concord's budget is \$100,000.

March 18 — The LHS basketball team wins its second consecutive state championship, defeating Catholic Memorial High School 76-69 at Boston College.

April 10 — Town Meeting approves a request of \$112,000 for plans to expand Cary Library and authorizes the Housing Authority to initiate a scattered sites housing program.

April 18 — The Board of Appeals gives the go-ahead to Lexington Mews, a restaurant/300-seat movie theater-shop complex on Muzzey Street in the Center.

April 25 — While registered Republicans use voting machines in this year's primary election, Democrats have to go back to the old-fashioned paper ballots because the large number of candidates will not fit the voting machine format.

May 7 — A memorial service is held on the Battle Green for the USS Lexington on the anniversary of its sinking in the Battle of the Coral Sea in 1942.

May — Close to 1,300 Lexington schoolchildren get free measles inoculations at Cary Hall clinics, with at least 2,000 more waiting to be inoculated.

May 25 — Selectman schedule a special meeting and grant a permit for Lexington Citizens for Participation Politics. The organization is holding a one-hour silent peace vigil on the Battle Green following the Memorial Day parade May 29.

June 12 — Ruth Morey is the first woman to serve on the Board of Appeals. Selectmen appointed her to a seat created by the resignation of Charles Abbott.

June 14 — The largest graduating class in the history of LHS, 690 students, delays its ceremony one day because of rainy weather.

July 10 — The Palmer & Dodge law firm, represented by resident and attorney Norman Cohen, is named town counsel. Previous town counsel Donald Legro served for 10 years.

July — Resident Anne Webster, 19, is running the state's only fund-raising office for presidential hopeful Sen. George McGovern. The office is located in

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the Knights of Columbus headquarters.

June 14 — The largest graduating class in the history of LHS, 690 students, delays its ceremony one day because of rainy weather.

July — The first modular homes in town are being built on two lots off Blossomcrest Road near Route 2.

July — The town will increase from six to nine precincts, a change that will bring Lexington into line with the state requirement that no precinct have a population of more than 4,000.

August — For the past two months, archeology students from Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania have been excavating the Fiske Hill area to confirm the location of the original Battle Road used April 19, 1775.

Aug. 8 — The Board of Appeals denies a Lexington Interfaith Council request to build six units of subsidized housing at the corner of Hickory and Garfield streets. It is reported that the decision was based on incomplete plans.

August — The incomes of about 161 Lexington families, or 593 individuals, fall below the federal poverty level, according to a 1970 US Census report.

Aug. 20 — Rev. Gordon MacDonald comes to Grace Chapel as the new full-time minister, after six years as pastor at the First Baptist Church in Collinsville, Ill.

Aug. 21 — State budget cuts make it impossible to expand the METCO program from 164 to 184 students, as was promised by the School Committee.

Sept. 19 — Lexington voters give Democratic congressional candidate John Kerry, an outspoken critic of involvement in Vietnam, the highest number of votes on either ballot at the primary election. Republican US Sen. Edward Brooke garners 941 votes in town, compared to state Sen. Ronald MacKenzie's 926. Democrats cast 4,472 votes, Republicans, 1,059.

Oct. 1 — The Hancock-Clarke House, where Paul Revere came just before midnight to alert John Hancock and Sam Adams April 18, 1775, is dedicated as an official historic landmark. Speakers include Roland B. Greeley, vice president of the Historical Society, and S. Lawrence Whipple, Lexington Historical Society historian-archivist.

Oct. 11 — The Budweiser Beer Clydesdale horses are the stars of a one-minute television commercial at the Battle Green; the filming takes three

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hours. TV personality Ed McMahon will do voice-over for the commercials.

Oct. 30 — Jonas Clarke Junior High School opens, ending double sessions at Diamond Junior High in effect for the first few weeks of school.

October — An 18-year-old Lexington boy, as well as 10 other Christian Science students at the Daycroft School in Connecticut, have contracted what the Board of Health classifies as polio. None of the boys had received either the Salk or Sabin vaccines.

Nov. 7 — Eighty-six percent of Lexington's registered voters go to the polls to cast 8,478 ballots for McGovern/Shriver and 7,432 for Nixon/Agnew.

Nov. 23 — The LHS versus Concord-Carlisle Thanksgiving Day football game, an annual contest since 1893, is played for the last time, with LHS winning 13-6 on home turf. The Concord Patriots are moving from Middlesex to the Dual County League.

Dec. 11 — Historical Society President G. Warren Butters tells selectmen that \$100,000 is needed for repairs to Buckman Tavern. A request for funds will be made at the 1973 Town Meeting.

Dec. 18 — After two years of study and discussion, selectmen vote to repave but not widen Spring Street, adding curbing and drainage correction.

1973

Population (1971 census) - 33,412
Valuation - \$235,785,150
Fire alarms - 2,052
School enrollment - 8,800

Tax rate - \$69.80/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 998
Dog licenses - 2,955
Building permits - 373

Jan. 9 — In the first Hatch Act wetland protection hearing, no decision is made but the Conservation Commission stresses the need for the town to improve drainage at Kiln Brook between Hartwell Avenue and Route 128.

Jan. 22 — Town flags which were lowered Dec. 26 in memory of the late President Harry S. Truman continue at half-staff for former President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Jan. 25 — Grace Chapel buys the Old Belfry Club on Muzzey Street for \$60,000 as a center for the church's youth programs.

Feb. 3 — Chicago Seven defense attorney William Kuntsler, whose clients have included H. Rap Brown, the Black Panthers and Malcolm X, is a Cary Lecture Series speaker.

Feb. 5 — Ground is broken for the \$6M Scottish Rite Library-Museum at Mass. Ave. and Marrett Road. The building should be completed by the Bicentennial, April 1975.

Feb. 5 — Following a survey of school facilities, the School Committee decides Hancock School will remain open for one more year. Committee members renew efforts to ensure the students have access to all modern educational opportunities available at other schools in town.

Feb. 15 — The Planning Board holds a hearing for the proposed \$10M Drummer Boy condominium complex to be built off Bedford and Winter streets.

March 5 — Patricia Swanson and Jane Berchtold are elected to the School Committee, bringing the total to three women and two men on the board, the first time women have held a majority.

April 4 — Town Meeting approves a local wetland protection bylaw that matches the state law, offering an extra measure of protection when development is proposed in or near wetlands.

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May — Senate redistricting splits the town, with Precincts 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 in the district of Sen. Ronald MacKenzie (R-Burlington) and the rest in the district of Sen. John W. Bullock (D-Arlington).

May — Lexington scientists James Barnes and David Chang of Environmental Research and Technology design several experiments performed by the Skylab Space Station astronauts. Skylab, launched May 14, will return in four weeks.

May — Because of complaints about cars clogging neighborhoods near the Center, the Lions Club decides to drop a fireworks display as part of its annual Old-Fashioned Fourth of July celebration.

May — In the course of repairs to Buckman Tavern, workers discover 18th- and 19th-century artifacts such as hand-forged nails with rosette heads and an old well used by the Meriam and Stetson families.

July — Because so many couples are far from extended families, three Lexington women start a support group to help new mothers adjust to parenthood and share experiences.

Aug. 13 — Barraged with complaints about parking violations and leftover signs from yard sales, selectmen adopt a policy of limiting yard sales to twice a year per family and no sales on Sunday. Signs must be in compliance with bylaws and appropriate parking.

Aug. 27 — The Housing Appeals Committee of the state Dept. of Community Affairs overrules the 1972 town appeals board denial of Interfaith Corp.'s subsidized housing complex at Hickory and Garfield streets.

Sept. 23 — Jonas Clarke Junior High School is dedicated, named for the patriot who was pastor of Lexington's First Parish church from 1755 until his death in 1805.

October — Robert I. Tarlin of Needham starts work as director of Bicentennial Operations and Planning, a post created by selectmen for the 1975-76 celebration.

Oct. 13 — The bodies of the five-member Millard Crocker family, whose rented Cessna Skyhawk disappeared July 1 on the way to an Amish festival in Pennsylvania, are found in the wreckage in Douglas State Forest near the Connecticut border.

November — The Chamber of Commerce decides to comply with the

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nationwide effort to conserve energy, eliminating Christmas lights from the town's holiday celebration.

December — With supplies cut back, gas station owners voluntarily close on Sundays to stretch their allotments.

December — For the first time, the American Red Cross is accepting blood donations from 17-year-olds with their parents' consent. Fourteen LHS seniors come to St. Brigid's Church to give blood during the annual high-demand, low-supply time of year.

Dec. 21 — The creche on the Battle Green, buffeted by recent controversy, is destroyed in a storm. Last month the Knights of Columbus and the Masons accepted financial responsibility for the creche. Earlier this year selectmen rejected a plea by 14 local clergymen to move the creche to the lawn of Hancock Church.,

1974

Population (1971 census) - 33,412
Valuation - \$245,586,100
Fire alarms - 2,049
School enrollment - 8,397

Tax rate - \$70.40/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 1,022
Dog licenses - 2,958
Building permits - 388

January — The School Committee votes to establish an impartial method to determine inequalities between educational opportunities for boys and girls in the school system. The decision came during a debate on the athletic budget which allocates more funds to boys' sports teams.

February — Customers are frustrated and gas station owners struggle over how to best cope with reduced fuel supplies— by-appointment-only gas service, 10-gallon limits, or opening every other day.

Feb. 10 — Sheryl Franks, 12, is the first Hayden skater to win a medal in the National Figure Skating Championships in Providence. She and Michael Botticelli, 14, of Weston, placed second in junior pairs competition.

February — Frank Ready closes the doors of Ready's Men's and Boys' store, a Lexington Center clothing shop for half a century.

February — A citizen's article to keep President Richard Nixon out of Lexington's Bicentennial celebration is defeated at Town Meeting. The article, which drew international media attention, stated that Nixon's illegal bombing of a neutral country and illegal schemes would demean the high ideals of the celebration.

May 9 — Historical Society Curator Virginia Nicholson, her husband, Paul and Paul Kossey go to a Sotheby's auction in New York and spend \$22,178 of society donations for the entire catalog of furnishings originally in the Hancock-Clarke House. They return to Lexington with the treasures packed in their Volkswagen bus.

June 3 — Townwide trash collection, a proposal sponsored by the Lexington League of Women Voters, is rejected 4,942 to 2,220 in a referendum vote.

June 10 — The School Committee praises the report on the first two years of the LHS Open Campus program but agrees with suggestions for improvement, most related to student accountability.

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June — Lexington police respond to a number of rowdy, large teenage parties resulting in vandalized property, cruisers being stoned and officers being assaulted to the point of needing hospitalization.

July 9 — The Sanderson House is now the property of the Lexington Company of Minute Men. The sale is financed through private donations. The 1689 house, adjacent to Munroe Tavern, will be used as the organization's headquarters and a museum.

August — A newspaper questionnaire returned by 361 respondents finds there are twice as many bus commuters as train commuters and that residents want more frequent, dependable public transportation to Boston and Cambridge.

August — Nine families take advantage of the Conservation Commission's offer of 20- by 20-foot garden plots on town land. This is the second year of the community gardens program.

August — According to a Massachusetts Department of Commerce and Industry report, the typical resident is married. Each partner works outside the home. The children go to public school and the family owns its single-family home (built prior to 1939). The adults have completed college and are working in a professional/technical field.

Aug. 9 — Town reaction to the resignation of President Richard Nixon ranges from "shaken" to "relieved" to "euphoric." Discussion picks up once again on what to do about the Presidential invitation to the Bicentennial the following year.

Aug. 22 — The Clarke Street building housing the Children's Library is up for bid. It must be moved by Sept. 1 to make room for library renovations.

August — Priscilla Hill, 12, the United States senior ladies skating champion, represents this country in two competitions mid-August. She wins in Obertsdorf, Germany and takes second in Saint Gervais, France.

Sept. 14 — A quilt lecture and demonstration, a band concert and ham and bean supper will all be part of the Lexington Bicentennial Committee's preview of the upcoming yearlong celebration.

Sept. 23 — The School Committee votes to allow secondary students who wish to ride the school bus, but are within the two-mile limit, to buy monthly tickets for \$5.25 each.

Sept. 26 — Middlesex Superior Court Judge Thomas R. Morse upholds the

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state Housing Appeals Committee's ruling in favor of Lexington Interfaith Corp.'s proposal for six units of low- and moderate-income housing at Hickory and Garfield streets.

Sept. 30 — Selectmen vote unanimously to reissue an invitation to President Gerald Ford to participate in Bicentennial activities Sunday, April 20.

October — The Planning Board approves the Woodpark Estates subdivision, 36 single-family homes on 42 acres off Wood Street. All wires will be underground.

October — At Veterans Day ceremonies, state Rep. Lincoln P. Cole Jr. is honored with a lifetime membership in the Lexington Company of Minute Men in recognition of his years of service to the town.

Nov. 5 — Republican Gov. Francis W. Sargent and running mate Lt. Gov. Donald Dwight are favored by Lexington voters, 7,421 to 4,909, but lose the election to Michael Dukakis and Thomas O'Neill III.

December — Complaints to the Police Dept. have tripled in 12 years, along with serious crimes such as assaults and rapes. Police Chief James Corr asks a joint meeting of selectmen, the Appropriation Committee and Personnel Board for an increase in staff to handle the rising crime rate.

December — A request for a town Historical Commission to identify and record the historic assets of the town will be on the 1975 Town Meeting warrant, a request of the Lexington Historical Society.

Dec. 18 — A delegation travels to Washington to present President Gerald Ford with a set of Lexington commemorative medals and invite him to the town's Bicentennial celebration



The Hancock-Clarke House returns to its original location on Nov. 23, 1974. Built in 1698 on the southeast side of Hancock Street, it was moved across the street in 1896. Lexington Minute Man Capt. Robert Marrigan reads a proclamation accompanied by fife and drums. Lexington Historical Society archives

1975

Population (1975 census) - 32,477
Valuation - \$249,714,150
Fire alarms - 2,210
School enrollment - 7,992

Tax rate - \$72/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 1,098
Dog licenses - 3,255
Building permits - 415

January — The Planning Board endorses widening Bedford Street to six lanes with a parallel service road to handle increasing traffic from Route 128 to Bedford. Three variations, all calling for a traffic light at Eldred Street, are being taken to the selectmen.

Jan. 6 — An architect's study recommends phasing out five of the town's oldest schools, to save an estimated \$467,743 in areas including personnel services and utilities.

Jan. 10 — Three persons die and three are hurt in a Summit Road fire caused by a cigarette dropped into a sofa.

January — State Rep. John Cusack of Arlington files a bill offering the Great Meadow to the Dept. of Natural Resources for \$7.5M. Though the land is in Lexington, it was originally acquired by Arlington to augment that town's water supply.

Jan. 16 — The Board of Appeals approves the first use of the new RD (restricted and controlled residential) zone for Drummer Boy condominiums. The Spaulding & Slye development will include 150 units on 62.5 acres off Bedford Street near the Bedford border.

Jan. 19 — President Gerald Ford appoints Dr. Edward A. Mason of Loring Road to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Mason is nuclear engineering professor at MIT.

Jan. 19 — A group of parents form an organization called the Mass. Ave. Coalition to determine the effect of school closures and changing school district lines on their children's educational futures.

February — Selectmen notify the Governor's Hanscom Task Force that they oppose use of Hanscom Field for commercial aviation if changes would result in more frequent or noisier types of aircraft.

March — The US Postal Service will issue a 10-cent postage stamp com-



President Gerald Ford is an honored Patriots Day guest during a five-day Bicentennial celebration that draws 75,000 people. There is a concert by the Masterworks Chorale, the April 19 battle re-enactment in the rain, parades and a dedication of the Scottish Rite Museum of Our National Heritage. Photo by Clifford B. Goodie

memorating the April 19, 1775, Bicentennial. The “Dawn of Liberty” painting by Henry Sandham, pictured on the stamp, hangs in the Cary Memorial Building lobby. Concord is the location of the first day of issue.

March 7 — Alan Adams of Somerset Road dies unexpectedly. He was associated with the Lexington Minute-man newspaper for more than 40 years.

March — The Bicentennial Committee sets up a rental housing referral service at the Visitors Center for April tourists. Rooms in private homes go for \$7 for a room with a shared bath, \$9 for a room with a private bath, with all revenue going to the host family.

April — Families respond with food, clothing and money to assist Vietnamese children at a headquarters set up at St. Brigid’s Kennedy School of Religion.

May — Y.E.L.P. (Youth to Educate Lexington Police), a group of young people and parents who feel the police have been too heavy-handed in dealing with local juveniles, organizes to facilitate communication and possibly propose legislation to improve police conduct.

June 5 — Residents crowd Estabrook Hall for a meeting on extending the MBTA Red Line subway through Lexington with a terminal at Route 128.

June 18 — The 690 members of the LHS Class of 1975 graduate, the last class to spend four years at LHS before it becomes a three-year school.

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June 28 — At Concord's Central Middlesex District Court, Judge Edward Viola finds five youths guilty of disturbing the peace, disorderly conduct and unlawful assembly at a May 2 party at 117 Adams St. Fines are issued. Defendants plan to appeal their case to a 12-person jury in Middlesex Superior Court.

Aug. 4 — Moody's Investment Service gives the town a AAA bond rating, delivering the news in a call to jubilant Town Treasurer Louis Zehner. Only six municipalities in Massachusetts have this rating.

Aug. 13 — The newly appointed Community Relations Committee hears suggestions from young people about services needed in town, the most frequently mentioned one a social center for conversation, music and, if desired, smoking.

Sept. 8 — The School Committee votes unanimously to allow student smoking at all outside areas of LHS at the discretion of the principal.

September — The Hancock School is accepted for the National Register of Historic Places. It is considered one of the town's best examples of Romanesque Revival public buildings.

Sept. 18 — President Gerald Ford presents the National Science Medal to Nicolaas Bloembergen, professor of applied physics at Harvard University, for "magnetic resonance to the study of condensed matter."

October — Signatures are being collected to place a bottle bill on the state ballot. If the initiative is approved, a refundable deposit of 5 or 10 cents will be required on beer and soft drink bottles to encourage recycling.

November — The Lexington Bicentennial Corporation is using radar to find the exact location of the foundation of the meetinghouse and belfry the morning of April 19, 1775.

November — A crowd representing half of Munroe School families, including one family who has had four generations at the school, meets to see what might be done to prevent the proposed school closing.

November — One of four Lexington families receives a questionnaire from the town about their recreation and open space priorities. The random sample also asks how much they would be willing to pay for various types of recreational facilities.

December — The appeals board approves Christos Kontos' petition to operate a Greek restaurant at 1 Meriam St. in the Giroux Building.

1976

Population - 32,477
Valuation - \$254,053,000
Fire alarms - 2,232
School enrollment - 7,561

Tax rate - \$80.20/\$1,000 value
Motor vehicle accidents - 1,254
Dog licenses - 3,293
Building permits - 467

January — Police report 361 house breaks in 1975, an average of one a day. There were 320 in 1974 and 240 in 1973.

January — A long-awaited town animal shelter is completed on Westview Street.

January — Police will spend \$3,800 to combat air pollution in the station's basement firing range after an officer supervising the range contracts lead poisoning.

February — A blocked MDC sewer line sends raw sewerage into the Vine Brook and into sinks and toilets in the Todd-Saddle Club roads area. The DPW pumps much of the waste into the swamp behind Vine Street, adding chlorine.

February — Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School (Minuteman Tech) opened last year on Marrett Road, but only three of 12 districts have met enrollment quotas. Nearly 200 of 904 desks are empty.

Feb. 23 — John Lawson, 52, school superintendent in Shaker Heights, Ohio, takes the top school post here for \$40,000/year.

March — The first Council on Aging newsletter is mailed to every resident 60 and over.

March 2 — The Community Relations Committee hears seven youths tell of alleged police harassment. Police Capt. Paul Furdon urges an end to the us/them syndrome.

March 8 — Yangtze River restaurant will open in the Giroux Building in Depot Square.

March 13 — Sam's Barber Shop, in the Center 43 years, closes when owner Sam Borella retires.

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March 15 — A shocked Town Manager Walter O'Connell fails to win long-term reappointment in a 4-0 selectmen's vote.

March — School Committee members are alarmed by a report on vandalism at LHS — 30 incidents from December 1975 to March 1976.

March 29 — Town Meeting approves nearly half a million dollars to buy conservation land including 40 acres on Waltham Street; 9 acres of the Chiesa Farm off Adams Street and 7.3 acres off Revere Street. Plans to light Center Field 2 and add tennis courts at Diamond Junior High meet defeat.

April 8 — It is illegal to consume alcoholic beverages on town or other public property, following Town Meeting action.

April 8 — John Brucchi gets a one-year permit to run a private riding academy on Paul Revere Road. No pony rides will be allowed.

April 8 — "The Sunshine Boys," starring George Burns and Walter Mathau, is playing at Lexington Cinema 1 and "Harold and Maude," with Ruth Gordon and Bud Cort, is at Cinema II. Seats are \$1 on Sunday through Thursday; \$1.50 on weekends.

April 23 — Vandalism in a girls' lavatory at LHS includes graffiti etched into the toilet stalls and fixtures and cigarette butts stomped into the tile floor.

May 1 — Lexington Savings Bank opens its first branch at 421 Lowell St.

May 4 — Dana Ham gets a thank-you letter from President Gerald Ford after the Hastings School fifth-grader sends Ford a copy of the 1975 Town Report. Dana shook the president's hand here last Patriots Day.

May 8 — Minute Man National Historical Park's Visitors Center on Route 2A is dedicated.

May 10 — As complaints of leash law violations grow, the animal control officer will step up efforts to catch free-running dogs. Fines will be levied.

May 10 — Nine local teens are arrested after a melee on Camellia Place behind Minute Man Oil Co. One youth reportedly attacked an officer with a 6-foot-long log.

May 13 — The Lexington Theatre Co. debuts with "The American Dream" and "The Zoo Story." Lew Gurman is director and Charles Forrester heads the board.

June 12 — The LHS girls' softball team is state champ, defeating Chicopee,

Life in Lexington

7-6. The team, led by captains Dee Schaffner and Syd Wilkinson and Hall of Famers Laura Hoffman and Gaby Haroules, returns home with a fire truck and police cruiser escort.

June — The Planning Board says a scheme to sell square inches of “Lexington Battleground” at \$7.76 each may fall within the subdivision control law’s jurisdiction. The land, adjoining Tophet Swamp, has no legal access.

July 4 — Exhausted by severe weather, local climbers are forced to give up their attempt to reach Mt. McKinley’s summit where they had planned to place a Bicentennial banner by the Fourth of July. The group, which includes five members of Lexington Explorer Post 122, had gotten within 300 feet of the Alaskan peak.

July 5 — A fire of suspicious origin at the East Lexington Railroad Station may be the work of young arsonists.

July — Ground is broken behind St. Brigid’s Church for The Housing in the Pine Grove, 16 low- and moderate-income housing units. The plan was approved via the state anti-snob zoning law’s appeals mechanism after a Town Meeting defeat.

July 12 — Next fall, Hayden Recreation Centre will also open to adults. The change follows a broader interpretation of J. Willard Hayden’s will.

July 15 — A local cab company responds to warnings and gets a six-month license. Last month, the firm was told to clean its cabs and make them safe or lose its license. Inspectors discovered dirty interiors, bald tires, ripped upholstery and bags of stale cookies.

July — Muzzey Junior High’s Michael Taylor is the top ninth-grader in the country and fourth overall at the National Student Computer Fair in New York.

July 16 — A plane crashes on Valley Road at 3:30 a.m., setting a tree afire and barely missing a house. The pilot’s body is found some distance from the plane. “We thought we were being bombed,” said Robert Fallovallita of Willow Street, who lives 30 yards from the crash scene.

July 29 — The state approves Cambridgeport Savings Bank’s petition for a branch at 1751 Mass. Ave. It will be the town’s seventh bank.

Aug. 12 — A federal grand jury indicts Lexington’s state Sen. Ronald MacKenzie on charges of conspiracy and extortion tied to investigations into award of the contract to oversee UMass Boston construction. MacKenzie says he is innocent.

Life in Lexington

Aug. 16 — Selectmen honor local US Women's Olympic crew member Anne Warner, a Summer Olympics bronze medal winner.

Aug. 20 — A bat picked up by the Board of Health is infected with rabies.

Sept. 11 — The Chinese Language School of Lexington opens at the Bridge School. Classes are Saturday mornings during the school year.

September — The State Supreme Court rules public disclosure of police records relating to a May 2, 1975, Adams Street party is not in the public interest. In Cambridge Superior Court, sentences, including jail terms and probation, which were imposed in February on three defendants at the party, are revoked. Fines originally issued last year in Concord District Court are reimposed. The action stems from Police Dept. complaints against the defendants of unlawful assembly and being disorderly persons and disturbers of the peace.

October — LHS has the most Merit Semifinalists of any New England public school, 24.

Oct. 25 — The Community Relations Committee recommends more Police Dept. youth programs and open communication channels among police, youth and town officials.

Nov. 11 — To stem the tide of missing library books, trustees will seek \$27,000 for a security system. Boxes are placed around town to collect overdue items, no questions asked.

Nov. 11 — Selectmen choose Robert Hutchinson Jr., 34, from 268 applicants for the town manager's job. He accepts a three-year contract at \$34,000/year.

November — Simonds Tavern, now a two-family residence at 329 and 331 Bedford St., is on the National Register of Historic Places. Joshua Simonds bought the land in 1760. The Hancock School, Sanderson House, Munroe Tavern, Follen Church and the East Branch Library were added to the register earlier this year.

November — An experimental Council on Aging bus visits the Burlington Mall three days a week for 50 cents each way.

Dec. 17 — A Christmas story unfolds at the First Baptist Church with the arrival of the six-member Phia family. The church voted to sponsor the Laotian refugees. Until housing can be found, the Phias are staying with Pastor Dr. Alvin Porteus and his family.

1977

Population (1975 census) - 32,477

Valuation - \$258,016,000

Fire alarms - 2,358

School enrollment - 7,180

Tax rate - \$88.40/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 1,369

Dog licenses - 3,239

Building permits - 493

Jan. 20 — The Lexington Company of Minute Men, led by Capt. Norman Daigle, march in President Jimmy Carter's inaugural parade in Washington, D.C. Lexington Minute-man Editor Anne R. Scigliano accompanies the group. Her photo of the marchers wins a Mass. Selectmen's Association award.

January — The police force will soon be at authorized strength of 54 with the appointment of eight officers including the town's first policewoman, Maureen Lusiak.

January — In Middlesex County Superior Court, Judge John Larkin rules the School Committee violated the open meeting law last Feb. 17 when it met in executive session to discuss hiring of a new school superintendent. The decision follows a civil suit filed by the League of Women Voters last April.

Jan. 24 — A committee will look into traffic problems on Marrett Road (Route 2A) at the Minuteman Tech entrance.

Feb. 1 — Faced with strong opposition from parents, the school board will study closing 10-year-old Bridge or another large school instead of four smaller ones over four years.

Feb. 3 — Concerned Black Citizens of Lexington will talk to the Community Relations Committee about alleged police harassment against black residents, the lack of minority town employees and the need for townwide sensitivity training.

February — A 60-foot, 17-panel mural depicting four seasons in Lexington, painted by the late Aiden Lassell Ripley, is donated to Cary Library by Donald and Carolyn Nickerson. It previously hung in their Somerset Road home.

February — Commuter options will be discussed after local rail service stopped last month when heavy snows derailed the Boston & Maine snowplow in Lexington Center. B&M officials say the route is the "single greatest loser per mile."

Life in Lexington

Feb. 11 — The Lexington Company of Minute Men raises the first flag on the town's new 125-foot steel flag pole.

Feb. 17 — Lexington Green Historic District is now in the National Register of Historic Places. The 13 properties around the Green also have National Historic Landmark status.

Feb. 20 — Wet snow and falling temperatures trigger a 75-vehicle accident on Route 128 near Routes 2A and 2.

Feb. 25 — A federal grand jury finds state Sen. Ronald MacKenzie guilty of extortion.

March — Kiwanis Club International threatens to revoke the Lexington-Bedford Kiwanis Club charter, but the group votes to retain its first woman member, Joan A. Libby.

March — Noted Lexington artist Philip B. Parsons dies after a brief illness; and the nation's oldest veteran of the Spanish American War, William Feindel, dies at 106.

March — Renaming Worthen Road near Bowman School as Worthen Road East essentially kills plans to extend Worthen across Marrett Road to Pleasant Street near Route 2.

March — Firefighters demonstrate the Jaws of Life rescue tool donated by the Rotary Club.

March 28 — A self-supporting program of curbside pickup of recyclables is approved at Town Meeting.

April — Romeo and Juliet, white ducks that a Village Circle family placed in the Munroe Brook, perish as the town pumps raw sewage into the brook to relieve surcharging sewers.

April — Peking Garden restaurant will expand to an adjacent Waltham Street building, formerly Stevens Market.

April 4 — Town Meeting approves conservation acquisitions including 24-acre Cranberry Hill off Route 2A, 24 acres off Grove Street and 20 acres of the Wood Street Cosgrove Farm. Members won't pay \$102,504 for development rights to a Mass. Ave. hillside owned by the Grey Nuns.

April 6, 11 — Town Meeting accepts an offer from the Bicentennial Corp. to fund a bandstand and approves plans for town elderly housing off Woburn

Life in Lexington

Street at Countryside. Developer Mark Moore Jr. gets approval for Moore Homes' proposed 45-unit Fiske Common condominiums off East Street.

April 21 — Town Meeting rejects spending \$50,000 for town pool plans and specifications and votes \$19,500 for plans only.

May 9, 10 — A freak storm topples trees and knocks out power for up to two days. Nearly six inches of heavy, wet snow damage flowering trees and shrubs. Schools close for two days.

May 12 — The Recreation Committee establishes user fees including \$2 for adult swim tags and \$1 for children's swim tags. A series of 10 swim lessons will be \$20.

June 4 — A concert by the popular Pousette-Dart Band will provide funds to operate the Youth Advisory Commission's Hire a Youth summer employment service. The group includes John Curtis of Lexington.

June 8 — LHS graduation exercises are clouded by the loss of senior John Maxner. He died June 5 after falling through the LHS fieldhouse roof which he and friends had reportedly been painting.

June 13 — Robert Kent defeats James Crain by three votes in one of the closest selectmen's races ever. The vacancy was created by Chairman Dr. Howard Kassler's April resignation.

June 20 — Animal Control Officer Barry Littleton captures a goat loose on Fulton Road. The animal is feasting on donated feed at the town shelter while its owner is sought.

June 23 — Hancock Elementary School becomes the first in a proposed series of school closings.

June — Selectmen stress that yard sales may not be held on Sundays or holidays where Blue Laws apply. Sales that are frequent or continuing are also banned.

July — About 175 families tend garden plots in three conservation areas; 25 more are on a waiting list.

July — John Bergeron of Greenfield is the new fire chief. Retiring Chief Walter Spellman served in the department nearly 50 years.

July — The Housing Authority has a list of 150 applicants for subsidized elderly housing.

Life in Lexington

July — Movie stars Michael Douglas, Richard Widmark, Genevieve Bujold, Elizabeth Ashley and Rip Torn are filming “Coma” at the Xerox-Ginn Building on Spring Street.

July 21 — At 3 p.m., the temperature is 102 degrees; a week later, it is 46.

August — The youth advisory, drug advisory and suburban responsibility commissions disband. A youth commission forms.

August — The US team wins the International Math Olympiad, led by the perfect score of Lexingtonian Michael Larsen, 15.

August — Low enrollments lead to dropping 50 LHS courses.

Sept. 1 — Symmes Hospital ends its maternity service.

Sept. 12 — Selectmen discuss how their \$200 annual stipends should be spent. One member suggests they be eliminated and expenses submitted instead.

September — Lexington educator Dr. Jack Monderer tells parents TV can be educational but “there is little doubt much of what appears ... would not tax the intellect of a gnat.”

Sept. 20 — Selectmen commend Firefighter Robert Walton for saving John Malloy’s life using the Heimlich method to dislodge food obstructing his breathing. EMTs John Grant and John Tobias and Police Officer Steven Newell are also honored.

Nov. 7 — Selectmen set a temporary moratorium on sewer connections in the Vine Brook watershed until an inflow-infiltration study is completed. The ban may affect one- fourth to half the town.

Nov. 22 — WBZ-TV (Channel 4) proclaims today “We’re 4 Lexington Day.”

Dec. 7 — A Special Town Meeting votes 137-7 to sell the Hancock School site at a price of at least \$100,000 to Sydney and Noyes Associates for conversion to condominiums.

1978

Population (1975 census) - 32,477

Valuation - \$263,263,950

Fire alarms - 2,231

School enrollment - 6,878

Tax rate - \$90.20/\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 1,288

Dog licenses - 3,149

Building permits - 450

Jan. 13 — The School Committee votes 3-2 to close Parker School in June.

January — Sherburne House, 11 Percy Road, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance.

Jan. 20 — The snow removal budget is wiped out with 20 inches of snow in 24 hours.

Jan. 17 — Nancy H. Banks of Mount Kisco, N.Y., is hired as the first assistant to the town manager. Joan Halverson is the new recreation coordinator.

February — A Lexington Little League official faces nine counts of larceny by check. The checks had been issued to the town for janitorial services. Two years ago another league official was found guilty of grand larceny of league checks.

March — The LHS boys' varsity basketball team beats Durfee to become state champs. Tom Sullivan and Mark Nesline are co-captains of the team coached by Bob Farias. Eugene Mewborn is a sophomore all-scholastic pick.

March 12 — Elizabeth Adams is the first woman to be ordained a minister in Lexington's First Parish Church.

March — Town Meeting approves spending \$2.5M over five years to substantially complete the town sewer system.

April 13 — Town Meeting rejects plans to light tennis courts, but votes to spend \$45,000 on final plans for a new swim complex at the current Center site.

April — Patrolman John J. Shine has a shinier badge after capturing a suspected housebreaker. Shine saw an MBTA bus near the robbery scene, identified the suspect, made the arrest and recovered the stolen property.

April 15 — The LHS debate team of Bill McKibben and Robin Jacobson tops the state.

Life in Lexington

April — Town-sponsored Forums on Aging address issues of a growing elderly population. William Page heads the project.

April 20 — Town Meeting votes \$100,000 for bikeways to link schools, conservation and recreation land and the Center.

April 27 — An older home with a large living room, fireplaced-dining room, ample bedrooms, eat-in kitchen and two-car garage is selling for \$87,500.

May 8 — Flags fly at half staff as DPW employee Walter Cunha, LHS Class of 1965, is buried. He was fatally injured at the sanitary landfill when the bulldozer he was operating suddenly tipped forward, throwing him and killing him instantly.

May — Firefighters struggle to quell a growing number of grass and brush fires, most set by schoolchildren.

May 18 — At LHS, boys' lacrosse becomes a varsity sport. Lacrosse has been a girls' varsity sport for 12 years.

June 5 — Selectmen adopt an affirmative action hiring plan designed to achieve "equitable and fair personnel practices" and "full utilization of minorities and women at all levels of municipal government."

June 22 — Parker School closes and many staff members hold back tears as they read loving messages students leave on blackboards. Over nine years, Principal Paul Foley saw "the student population bulge at the seams, then slowly diminish."

June 29 — Grouping students by ability has earned support of a majority of teachers and parents at the junior high school level, according to a School Committee report.

July 6 — A Conservation Commission decision allows construction of the 44-lot Ridge Estates subdivision.

July — The School Committee approves a plan that will help to introduce computer education in the schools.

July — The Building Dept. declares the LHS football field bleachers unsafe and says they must be repaired or replaced. Costs of alternatives will be weighed.

July 17 — Selectmen lift the moratorium on new sewer connections.

July 20 — Express commuter service to Boston is here to stay, says a

Life in Lexington

spokesperson for Vocell Bus Co. The weekday service began in February with 60 riders and now serves 90.

July — Town Manager Robert Hutchinson fires DPW Director John J. McSweeney for “professional reasons.” A court-ordered hearing on the discharge is scheduled.

August — Field and Garden Club members tend plants at the East Branch Library, trees at the Red Cross Building, a window box in Greeley Village and a floral display at Cary Library’s entrance.

August — Members of the Lexington Unicycle Club conquer New Hampshire’s Mount Washington on one wheel.

Aug. 16 — It is hoped the new Hayes Lane bypass sewer line will keep sewage out of Saddle Club Road area basements.

September — Parking meters no longer accept pennies. New rates are five cents for 30 minutes, 10 cents for an hour.

Sept. 11 — A powerful lightning bolt severs the top of a large pine which strikes a camper in a Grove Street yard. The lightning carves a furrow on the ground before striking and smashing concrete steps, jumping up a drain pipe, shattering floodlights and tearing a panel from the family room wall. All fuses are blown and the water main ruptures. Two persons in the house are safe, but shaken.

Sept. 15 — Prospective buyers and spectators gather for a lottery to choose purchasers of the Hancock School’s 18 “affordable” condominiums selling from \$36,900 to \$56,000.

Oct. 19 — Battle Green Shell’s self-service gas pumps, the first in town, are open. Prices are lower. Business is brisk.

October — John J. McSweeney will fight his firing as director of public works.



A snow storm, described as the worst in more than a century, dumps 30 inches in 40 hours, starting Feb. 9. Winds reach 90 mph and a state of emergency is declared in Mass. Plowing efforts are hampered by up to 2,000 vehicles abandoned on Route 128. Schools close for a week. This police officer is chin deep in snow along Mass. Ave. and Waltham Street. Photo by S. Lawrence Whipple.

Life in Lexington

October — Winton General Store, 1049 Mass. Ave., closes.

Nov. 7 — State Rep. Lincoln P. Cole Jr. wins his toughest challenge yet, edging out 22-year-old Stephen W. Doran.

November — Opposition mobilizes against plans to build a municipal bandstand behind the Buckman Tavern. Hastings Park is another possible site.

November — Waldenbooks will lease space at 1726 Mass. Ave., formerly Hanlon's Shoes.

Nov. 30 — Seven local youths are charged with breaking and entering and malicious destruction of property tied to \$3,000 in damage at Lexington Christian Academy.

December — The School Committee votes to close Munroe School in June. Members endorse a racial awareness curriculum in grades 5 and 6.

December — Eileen O'Leary, 74, beams at the national Christmas tree lighting in Washington, D.C., as her song "Let's Turn the Lights on the Christmas Tree" is featured.

1979

Population (1975 census) - 32,477

Valuation (FY80) - \$268,421,050

Fire alarms - 2,544

School enrollment - 6,492

Tax rate (FY80) - \$87.60 /\$1,000 value

Motor vehicle accidents - 1,197

Dog licenses - 3,055

Building permits - 834

January — A town survey shows one in five households voluntarily recycles solid waste.

Jan. 25 — When heavy rains create an unexpected lake outside the high school's J House, enterprising students tour the campus by canoe.

February — A thief breaks into the animal shelter on Westview Street, steals \$20, then releases all the dogs.

February — Selectmen turn over 16 town-owned lots to be used for subsidized housing.

Feb. 3 — Minute Man Bike Shop, which Ralph White opened on the first floor of a Woburn Street house 12 years ago, closes after an auction.

Feb. 10 — The Lexington Rotary Club celebrates its golden anniversary.

March 8 — LHS sports teams explode this week — the hockey team is an Eastern Mass. semi-finalist and the basketball team is a Division I North semifinalist.

March 19 — When the annual debate resumes over the merits of mosquito control, Town Meeting rejects the \$9,200 proposed mosquito control budget. A later bid to reconsider the decision meets defeat on a roll-call vote.

March — An "affordable" condo in the former Hancock School, bought for \$46,200 last September, sells for \$69,000.

March — The legend of the postman refers to rain, snow and sleet, but it is mud that keeps the mailcarrier from James Street for several days this month.

March — The orange trim on the converted Hancock School gets blasted again, this time by the Historical Commission.

Life in Lexington

March — The Planning Board prepares a statement that will require developers to make a percentage of condo units available for low- and moderate-income housing.

April 2 — Town Meeting votes to borrow \$675,000 for a new Center Pool complex, creates a recreation revolving fund and earmarks \$15,000 to upgrade Sutherland Park in East Lexington.

April 8 — A three-alarm fire tears through the Old Belfry Club on Muzzey Street. About 100 firefighters from five towns battle the blaze. The 85-year-old building, owned by Grace Chapel, must be razed.

April — According to the police log, investigation of a “Chain of Gold” chain letter scheme continues and a Nickerson Road resident returns from vacation to find his back steps are missing.

April 9 — A housing policy resolution passes at Town Meeting after references to a town’s “obligation” to provide housing are deleted.

May — Wally Wesinger began working for the town 55 years ago, driving a horse team for 50 cents an hour. He retires this month with many memories and a record that shows he took just one day sick leave.

May 14 — Town Meeting rezones Powder Horn Golf Course land off Walnut Street to build 100 condos. On April 25, members approved rezoning for Morrow Crossing, a 21-unit condo complex off East Street. In both cases, 10% of the units are earmarked for low- and moderate-income tenants.

May 20 — Temple Emunah members watch as Rabbi Joel Myers lowers thousands of worn, damaged books and other sacred objects into a grave on the temple grounds, a ritual showing respect for these sacred items collected since the temple was built in 1966.

May 21 — Health Director George Smith gets calls about raccoons and skunks showing signs of canine distemper.

May 31 — A two-year curbside recycling collection experiment ends after Town Meeting says a trash pickup system that would have included curbside recycling is too costly.

June 11 — A referendum falls 295 votes short of reversing Town Meeting’s approval of funds for new swim complex. The existing pool fails to meet health/safety codes.

June — Trees all over town are infested with gypsy moth caterpillars. Some residents say they can actually hear the caterpillars munching at night. The

Life in Lexington



Depot Square ceremonies Sept. 12, 1979 launch the Lexpress system. From left, are: Bill Mix, Webb Sussman, Transportation Committee Chair Sally Castleman, Selectmen Chair Steve Politi, Donald Graham, Lance Neumann, Sarah Arnold, Lawrence Chait, Elaine Dratch and state Rep. Stephen Doran. Lexington Minuteman photo

nontoxic biological agent Dipel is being used to fight the pests.

June — LHS sophomores will be considered for open campus after the first semester under a stricter policy. An F or two Ds will revoke open campus privileges.

June — Long lines are the rule at gas stations as a national fuel shortage frustrates station owners and customers. Police report frequent gasoline

theft attempts.

June 26 — Two masked men escape with several thousand dollars from Coolidge Bank and Trust, the second robbery in a little more than a year at the 171 Mass. Ave. bank.

June — Lexpress wins the "name the new minibus service" contest, edging The Town Haul and Tricorn Trolley.

June 20 — Munroe Elementary School closes 75 years after it opened.

June — LHS wins another Middlesex League All-Sports trophy. Six teams capture league titles; three reach Eastern Mass. semifinals and two are state finalists.

July — Lexington's first frisbee tournament is a grand success.

July 3 — Police have seven local suspects in connection with a fatal Route 128 accident that occurred after boulders were placed in the roadway. A 4-year-old was killed when a van driven by her father struck one of the boulders, hit the guardrail and tipped over.

July 13 — Data Resource's takeover by publishing giant McGraw Hill creates jobs and it won't lead to loss of autonomy, says resident Otto Eckstein, president of the local firm.

July 25 — The Historical Commission calls the owner's razing of the 1876

Life in Lexington

East Lexington train station “utterly needless destruction of an important piece of Lexington’s past.”

August — The Metropolitan Area Planning Council weighs resident Thomas Fortmann’s suggestion to improve air quality by converting the Boston & Maine railroad right-of-way into a commuter bike path from Arlington to Lexington and Bedford.

August — Police are called to the Waltham Street area by concerned residents — a cow is loose. Meanwhile, Woodpark Circle residents worry about rats in their neighborhood and about the possibility children might be harmed by poison intended for the rodents.

August — A 1,400-seat sanctuary is under construction at Grace Chapel, which had a seating capacity of 180 when it was built 25 years ago. A new \$425,000 temple will triple space at Temple Isaiah on Lincoln Street.

August — The independent Westbridge School will enroll 70 students in grades 7-12 at the former Academy of the Holy Family site on Pelham Road.

Sept. 16 — The Bicentennial Band holds a spirited dedication concert at its new Hastings Park bandstand.

Sept. 30 — Hartwell Avenue bike-path plans are approved.

Oct. 22 — The Lexington Monday Minute-man newspaper folds 77 days after its debut.

October — A Mass. Ave. elm opposite Munroe Tavern succumbs to Dutch elm disease. Some say the tree is 400 years old.

Oct. 27 — Selectman Margery Battin is the first woman president of the Massachusetts Selectmen’s Association .

Dec. 22 — Minuteman Restaurant closes after 35 years. Bel Canto restaurant is expected to open at the Mass. Ave. site.

December — The School Department’s energy budget deficit may reach \$250,000.



F.W. Woolworth's closes Jan. 15, 1979 after 46 years at 1735 Mass. Ave., where CVS Pharmacy later opens. Lexington Minuteman photo

1980

Population - 29,497

Valuation (FY81) - \$274,026,500

Fire alarms - 2,300

School enrollment - 6,093

Tax rate (FY81) - \$92/\$1,000 value

Auto accidents - 1,254

Dog licenses - 3,017

Building permits - 780

Jan. 11 — Firefighters battle high winds and flames during a brush fire off Concord Avenue.

Jan. 29 — LHS students rally against President Carter's call for draft registration; 234 sign a petition.

January — Two Vietnamese families arrive in town. A Temple Isaiah group coordinates resettlement for the 11 refugees.

Feb. 2 — It is Sheryl Franks Day in Lexington and the resident and her skating partner Michael Botticelli dazzle a Hayden ice arena audience with the pairs routine that later earns them seventh-place at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. The Hayden crowd also gives a warm welcome to resident Priscilla Hill, who came close to winning an Olympic spot, placing sixth in US women's singles competition. spot, placing sixth in US women's singles competition.

February — The state's highest court rules Town Manager Robert Hutchinson acted legally firing John McSweeney as DPW superintendent and town engineer, reversing an earlier decision.

March 6 — In the GOP presidential primary, 42% of local voters support US Rep. John Anderson, who visited here Feb. 17. George Bush picks up 28% of the local GOP vote and Ronald Reagan 22%. Jimmy Carter and Jerry Brown lead the Democratic pack.

March 24 — Town Meeting approves conservation purchases in the North Lexington Brook, Tophet Swamp, Trinity Covenant Church and Liberty Heights areas. Members fund improvements at Kinneen, Garfield, Rindge, Baskin, Marvin, Ivan and Center playgrounds or tot lots.

March 25 — Arlington's conservation commissioners seek support for a dam near Fottler Avenue in Lexington that would cause seasonal flooding in the Great Meadow.

March 31 — Selectmen approve use of the bacterial spray Dipel to fight

Life in Lexington

what appears to be a bumper crop of gypsy moths.

April — Resident Robert Bowyer is the town's new planning director.

April — Groups rally to save the historic Red Cross Building on Hancock Street, which has been informally condemned.

April 8 — The school board votes to stop grouping seventh graders by ability in science, social studies and English. Phasing continues in math and foreign language.

April 8 — Town Meeting votes to convert the Parker School into 28 condos, seven for low- and moderate-income families.

April 20 — A first-ever re-enactment of the 1775 British retreat from Concord includes battles at Hastings and Tower parks.

May 13 — Reed Street neighbors complain about "a glut of human service residences and halfway houses" in the area.

May — Five local women — Molly Nye, Miriam Butts, Joan Chapin, Patricia Heard and Wendy Holzbog — open Gallery on the Green in Lexington Center.

May — The Fair Housing Committee plans a study to determine if patterns of discrimination exist and why Lexington's black population is less than 1%. The committee also plans to recommend ways to attract minority residents.

May — The Historical Society publishes "Lexington, A Century of Photographs." Its editor is Beverly Allison Kelley.

May — Thousands turn out for the Chamber of Commerce's first "Discovery in Lexington" festival on Memorial Day weekend.

May — A solar water-heating panel that LHS students had been working on for months is destroyed by vandals.

June — This month the town gets its first 863-prefix telephone numbers. The 862s ran out in the mid-1960s and 861s were issued.

June 14 — About 30 draft registration protesters, ages 15-60, stage a Flag Day rally on the Battle Green.

July 1 — Townwide trash and garbage pickup begins and residents lose a popular place to politick and socialize with the closing of the town dump. The Hartwell Avenue landfill will remain open for recycling.

Life in Lexington

July — The town files a complaint against four firms connected with construction of Cary Library's new wing. A stucco panel fell off an exterior wall last April.

July 5 — A 22-year-old man dies in a Reed Street fire, the first fire-related death here since January 1975.

July 6 — Two armed men net \$946 in a robbery at a Mass. Ave. gas station, the fourth in a month.



The Rev. Harold T. Handley, pastor emeritus of the Church of Our Redeemer and beloved historian, dies March 2 at the age of 73. He is remembered for introducing new generations to the town's rich history. Lexington Minuteman photo

July 17 — Ribbon-cutting ceremonies on North Street celebrate completion of the first three homes in the town's scattered-sites program for low- and moderate-income families.

July 20, 21 — After hearing anti-draft speeches on the Battle Green, 75 to 100 protesters march to the post office.

July — Gypsy moth caterpillars leave cocoons and invade backyards, homes, cars and stores. The tree warden says control with insecticides is impossible at this stage.

August — Attendance is down at Lexington's five supervised playgrounds. Other towns report similar experiences.

Aug. 1 — More than 2,000 residents make a big splash when the new pool complex opens with free swimming. The Old Res closes temporarily Aug. 5 due to unsafe bacteria levels.

Aug. 23 — Police disguised as hotel cleaners trap a 20-year-old murder suspect in a Northampton hotel. The Billerica woman faces charges in the Aug. 20 fatal shooting of Warren Smith, 59, in his East Lexington home. Police say he was shot with his own gun in a lovers' quarrel.

Aug. 30 — First National market closes after more than two decades on Bedford Street.

September — Extended day after-school programs for working parents open at Bowman and Harrington schools. Minuteman Tech enrollment hits a

new high — 1,213 day students and 2,600 per week for late-afternoon and evening classes.

September — Ann Pastreich is the first woman firefighter. Her hiring follows an agreement with the town that settles a complaint she filed with the Mass. Commission Against Discrimination in 1978.

Sept. 11 — Police investigate a sheep attack at John Brucchi's Paul Revere Road property. Three lambs' throats are slit.

Sept. 28 — More than 150 people flee the Lexington Sheraton Motor Inn after a fire starts in the kitchen shortly after 10 p.m.

October — With fuel costs rising, the building department is flooded with requests for permits to install coal and wood-burning stoves.

Oct. 7 — Selectmen vote to oppose Question 2 (Prop. 2 1/2), a proposal that would generally limit tax increases to 2.5% a year unless voters agree to raise the tax cap.

October — Stop & Shop signs a long-term lease to bring a Medi-Mart drug store to the former First National site on Bedford Street.

Oct. 20 — Winchester DPW director Walter Tonaszuck arrives to fill the Lexington DPW director's post, vacant since the manager fired former director John McSweeney.

Oct. 28 — Depositors Trust opens a main bank office on Hartwell Avenue.

Nov. 4 — Stephen Doran, 24, who lost to incumbent state Rep. Lincoln Cole in 1978, wins this time by 875 votes. The Prop. 2 1/2 question squeaks by here and wins statewide.

Nov. 28 — In Lexington Center, the Minute Man Barber Shop closes after 52 years and the Crafty Yankee shop is set to open.



Adams closes as a public school the last week in June. By fall, the Waldorf School is negotiating to buy the building. Lexington Minuteman photo

1981

Population (1980 census) 29,479
Valuation* (FY82) - \$1,242,053,600
Fire alarms -2,234
School enrollment - 5,680

Tax rate** (FY82) \$18.97 res./\$27.74 com.
Motor vehicle accidents - 1,373
Dog licenses - 2,792
Building permits - 774

*First year property is assessed at 100% market value

** First year of separate residential/ commercial tax rates
and the year a Fiscal Year (FY) accounting system begins

Jan. 1 — Crime is decreasing in town while it is increasing statewide. Police Chief James Corr attributes the decline to a Police Dept. crime prevention program and greater cooperation from residents.

Jan. 3 — Twenty-five residents, led by Andrew Tauber of the Lexington Alliance Against the Draft, deliver poetry readings to register their opposition. The draft was reinstated last spring after five years.

Jan. 10 — Brigham's restaurant on Mass. Ave. closes, while the Brigham's at 38 Bedford St. will remain open.

January — Two weeks after Boston Gas asked its 252 local customers to turn down their thermostats in response to the natural gas shortage, consumption has dropped.

February — A list of new residential property values, determined in the recent revaluation, is mailed to all local homes. Officials tell residents the tax rate should drop from \$92/\$1,000 valuation to about \$25/\$1,000 as the town meets a state mandate to assess at 100% fair market value. Most tax bills won't drop, however, since property values will rise.

Feb. 19 — Why is the Christmas tree in Emery Park still standing on Valentine's Day, an editorial in the Lexington Minute-man newspaper wants to know. Is it a place to leave messages for friends, a site for yellow ribbons, a place for Old Glory to drape itself on Flag Day?

Feb. 26 — Members of the Lexington Committee for a Nuclear Freeze gather at Follen Church after collecting more than 1,000 signatures asking that federal legislators endorse a nuclear weapons ban between the United States and the Soviet Union.

March — Parker School, closed since 1979, is making the transition to Parker Manor Condominiums. Twenty-eight two-bedroom units will each

Life in Lexington

sell for \$86,000, with additional units set aside for low- and moderate-income families.

March 10 — Dr. Bernard Harleston, a psychologist and former dean at Tufts University, will become president of City College of New York. He will be the first black president of the City University's oldest campus.

March — Frank Bequaert of Bertwell Road invents his own gypsy moth attack weapon from a vacuum cleaner, tent pole, film canister, backpack and several yards of duct tape.

March 23 — Town Meeting adopts a Fair Housing Resolution that guarantees equal opportunity, stressing a belief that diversity is desirable for all residents.

March 30 — Books on the Green owners and residents, Mary McKenney and Adele Wisotzky, say they will close the shop May 1 due to a changing economy and the high cost of books. When it opened in the Giroux Building in 1973, Books on the Green was the only bookstore in town.

April — Gov. Edward J. King meets with Lexington officials and members of the business community to talk about relief for the Bedford Street traffic problems.

May 13 — A Mass for Pope John Paul II's recovery is celebrated by Father John Prusaitis at St. Brigid's Church less than two hours after an assassination attempt on the pontiff's life.

May 13 — The body of a 59-year-old woman is found in the Old Res on Marrett Road by two students on their way to Bridge School. Though an autopsy was scheduled, police believe it was a suicide.

May — A childhood disease on the rise is called Clown Cheeks, because it is accompanied by a fever and bright-red cheeks. It is also called Fifth Disease because it is the fifth of a series of similar diseases, after measles, rubella, scarlet fever and Filatau-Dukes.

May 29 — Staff members, alumni and friends gather at the Lynnfield Hilton to say goodbye and celebrate the memories of Muzzey Junior High School, closing this June after 28 years as a junior high school and more than a decade before that as LHS.

June 4 — Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis speaks at LHS graduation.

Life in Lexington

June 22 — The town signs a contract formally committing the town's trash to a regional resource recovery project, scheduled to go into operation in North Andover in 1985. The \$74M state-owned plant will use trash to generate electricity.

June 27 — Two masked gunmen rob Lexington Savings Bank's Lowell Street branch of more than \$100,000 at 2:30 p.m., minutes after the money had been dropped off by a Brinks armored truck. The men, one with a rifle and the other with a revolver, take off in a green station wagon.

June 27 — Construction on Lexington's first office condominium, North Brook Park Office Condominium on Bedford Street near Heritage Hall, is nearly complete. A second retail and office condo is going up in Lexington Center, and the Mews building on Muzzey Street is expected to go condo gradually over a period of two to three years.

July 13 — The proposed Minute Man Commuter Bikeway wins more support as the Planning Board sends a letter to selectmen approving the concept of the 11-mile bike path along an old rail line. According to Tom Fortmann, whose idea helped launch the project, the goal is to get the endorsement of the four communities involved — Bedford, Lexington, Arlington and Cambridge — for funding purposes.

Aug. 5 — Guenther's, a restaurant featuring Viennese and continental cuisine, opens at 1777 Mass. Ave. in the Center. Nicole and Guenther Weinkopf are the owners.

Aug. 31 — Selectmen vote to award a final contract for local cable TV programming to Adams-Russell Co. Their vote culminates more than eight years of investigation and study.

September — The School Committee raises school lunch prices from 70 cents to \$1, primarily due to a cutback in anticipated federal and state reimbursements.

Sept. 2 — A water main ruptures under Mass. Ave., buckling the roadway under Depot Square. The water released from the broken cast iron pipe lifts the street up a foot before surging down Mass. Ave., around the square, over the railroad tracks and behind the stores.

September — Since Muzzey Junior High School closed in June, students are split between two junior highs, Diamond and Clarke. Administrators say it is a smooth transition but students complain of overcrowded buses and longer cafeteria lines. Clarke went from 675 to 900 students, while Diamond grew from 640 to 670.

Life in Lexington

Sept. 3 — The Church of the Sacred Heart prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary that coincides with the 800th centenary of St. Francis of Assisi. An extensive interior renovation is nearly complete.

Sept. 10 — The Board of Appeals approves the site plan for the Countryside town elderly housing project. Variances are needed for the 60-unit complex.

October — Six months after the start of operation by the non-profit Citizens for Lexington Conservation (CLC), the local recycling program is more than \$700 in the black. CLC hires the Hancock Church Youth Group to take over supervision of the Sunday afternoon recycling hours as a fundraiser for its programs.

Oct. 7 — The old Johnson farmhouse on Grove Street near Route 128 burns to its charred beams. The house was included in the subdivision plan of developer Oscar Cormier, who had been developing the 10-acre property along with 11 new homes.

Oct. 14 — Supt. of Schools John Lawson is named the new Massachusetts Commissioner of Education.

Dec. 7 — Lexington plows out from 18 inches of snow, costing the DPW more than \$20,000 in overtime pay and equipment leasing.

1982

Population (1980 census) - 29,479

Valuation (FY83) \$1,267,201,500

Fire alarms - 2,255

School enrollment - 5,387

Tax rate (FY83) \$19.41 res./\$28.36 com.

Motor vehicle accidents - 1,361

Dog licenses - 2,725

Building permits - 730

Jan. 20 — Following a monthlong stakeout, police arrest two men for breaking and entering at a Hilltop Avenue residence. Police believe the suspects may be connected with a series of "obituary robberies" of homes where the family was gone because of a funeral.

Jan. 29 — Priscilla Hill, 20, quits amateur figure skating following a sixth place in free skating in the 1982 US Figure Skating Championships in Indianapolis. Hill has been skating for 16 years and was a close second to Elaine Zayak for the US title last year.

Feb. 11 — Former Parker School Principal Paul Foley is among those attending an open house marking the completion of Parker Manor Condominiums. The school was built in 1920.

Feb. 25 — Liz Walker, Channel 4-TV anchorwoman since 1980 and resident, is voted one of New England's top three newscasters in the Globe Calendar magazine poll.

March 7 — Resident Roseann Stephens coordinates a Women in History Week exhibit at the State House. She is an associate member of Gov. Edward King's Commission on the Status of Women.

March 22 — Selectmen recommend to Town Meeting that the former Muzzey School be converted for use as commercial office space with payment to the town set at about \$580,400.

March 20 — Scott Douglass, 21, dies in a skiing accident in Rangeley, Maine. More than 400 attend funeral services for the son of Arthur and Jewel Douglass of Douglass Funeral Home.

May 18 — Members of the Lexington chapter of the National Organization for Women make a last-minute push for passage of the Massachusetts Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA fails to pass.

May-June — Heavy rains cause flooded basements, surcharging sewers and torrents of water strong enough to sweep up rocks. Discovery in Lexington's

Life in Lexington

Memorial Day weekend sidewalk sale is canceled twice.

May 24 — Town Meeting approves the sale of the former Adams School building to the privately run Waldorf School for \$160,000. Included is a 20-year lease of its 1.5 acres of land, which excludes the playground area.

June 3 — Acting School Supt. Geoffrey Pierson is named the new school supt. The position was previously offered to Dr. Jerry Herman, who turned it down after contract negotiations broke down, and to Dr. Percy Clark. Clark is an African-American whose candidacy was clouded with controversy as School Committee members were charged with racial bias — a charge they strongly refuted.

June 10 — US Sen. Paul Tsongas urges students to work for nuclear disarmament in his commencement address to LHS' 602 graduating seniors. It is the last ceremony for Principal David Clune, who has accepted a post in Wilton, Conn.

June 17 — More than 200 people attend ceremonies officially launching local cable television. They crowd the Adams-Russell office to view a bank of 20 TV sets.

June — Police Chief James Corr retires after a 33-year career in local law enforcement. Paul E. Furdon, a Fletcher Street resident, is sworn in June 28 as police chief by Town Clerk Mary McDonough.

August — Lexington is selected by the US Postal Service as a site to begin making the federal postal system more competitive. Letter carriers are instructed to spend less time in the building and more time on the street to better serve their customers and to use fewer vehicles to reduce energy costs.

Sept. 9 — McDonald's hamburgers and fries come to the Minuteman Tech campus off Marrett Road. Students staff the new restaurant and many helped with the building renovation during the previous summer.

Sept. 17 — A 58-unit elderly housing development at Countryside is officially turned over to the Lexington Housing Authority.

September — The Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission formally endorse the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway plan, a path planned to be built along the Boston & Maine Railroad right-of-way.

Oct. 18 — Sack Theatres purchases Lexington Cinemas I, II and III. A Sack official said there would be no changes in policy or film choices. At the time

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*Emanuele "Manny" Coscia Jr., of the DPW staff, shows a customer how to use the new ticket machine in the Meriam Street parking lot.
Lexington Minuteman photo*

of the sale, "The World According to Garp" is playing on one of the screens.

Oct. 25 — On May 11, residents demanded to know why the School Committee reversed its support for black supt. of schools candidate Percy Clark. Five residents take the School Committee to court to release executive session minutes. When the information is made public, both sides say it validates their view.

Nov. 2 — In a 75% turnout — the same as four years ago —

Lexington voters stay in tune with statewide results, electing Democrats Michael Dukakis and John Kerry for governor and lieutenant governor.

Nov. 11 — Sgt. Steven Corr and Patrolman Charles Sargent capture two men suspected of involvement with organized car and property theft rings in a four-town area. A week later they are given commendations for their part in the arrest.

November — State Rep. Stephen Doran, who is in his 20s, is included in Norma Nathan's Book of Most Eligible Bachelors. Nathan, a columnist for the Boston Herald American, says she picks the "wittiest, suavest, richest and brightest" 150 men in the Boston area.

December — A resident's car, left running, hits an unmarked police car while the owner runs into the police station to deliver an accident report. There is \$1,000 damage to the police car. The owner of the car gets a citation.

December — The Colonial Garage Buick dealership on Mass. Ave. next to Ye Olde Bargain Barn is demolished in December to make way for Spaulding and Company's Lexington Square. The new building will welcome its first tenants, Potpourri Designs and Oriental Rug Importers, the summer of 1983.

1983

Population (1980 census) - 29,479

Valuation (FY84) - \$1,294,456,100

Fire alarms - 2,254

School enrollment - 5,179

Tax rate (FY84) \$19.58 res./\$28.61 com.

Motor vehicle accidents - 1,283

Dog licenses - 2,678

Building permits - 748

Jan. 10 — Gov. Michael Dukakis appoints resident James S. Hoyte, Arthur D. Little vice president, as the state's secretary of environmental affairs.

Jan. 10 — Gov. Michael Dukakis appoints resident James S. Hoyte, vice president of Arthur D. Little, to secretary of environmental affairs.

January — Massachusetts voters approve a refundable deposit on cans and bottles to encourage recycling. While Lexington stores are busy labeling inventory, most residents appear to favor the bottle bill as a benefit to the economy and the environment.

Feb. 23 — Less than nine days after Town Meeting passage a reuse plan for Muzzey Junior High School, more than 100 applications are received for the 71 affordable housing units. Almost 100 senior citizens came to Town Meeting to support a senior center that is now in the building.

March 7 — Lois Barry, who turned 18 two weeks earlier, is the youngest Town Meeting member ever elected. The LHS senior is the daughter of Town Meeting member Jim Barry. She had spent the previous summer as a page at the US House of Representatives.

March 10 — Serious mechanical problems in Lexpress buses halt service for almost a day. The Dept. of Public Utilities finds 17 violations in one bus and, later, a Registry of Motor Vehicles inspector finds others.

March 10 — The LHS girls' basketball team, the Minutemaids, wins the Division I North title for the first time in the history of the school, beating Burlington 63-51.

March 27 — Merchants say business is good at local stores the first Sunday opening outside of the Christmas season. "Blue laws" prohibiting Sunday openings, in effect for hundreds of years in Massachusetts, were lifted by a statewide vote.

May 7 — Thirteen local religious congregations join forces to sponsor a

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brunch at Pilgrim Congregational Church benefiting Rosie's Place, a women's shelter in Boston.

May 11 — Town Meeting approves \$50,000 for computer terminals and peripheral equipment to network the computers of all the schools and the Town Office Building.

June 4 — Selectmen approve a sidewalk cafe at the Versailles Restaurant, 1777 Mass. Ave. (formerly Guenther's). Plans call for several round tables with umbrellas in the 300-square-foot area. The town's rate for renting sidewalk space is being negotiated.

June 22 — Franklin Elementary School closes, due to declining enrollment and budget constraints. Principal Paul Foley notes at a closing ceremony that more than 17,000 students attended Franklin since it opened in 1931.

July 18 — A small-scale tornado zips through town, uprooting a handful of trees and basketball standards. The twister travels along Village Circle, Page and Bryant roads and Lowell Street.

July 19 — St. Brigid's pastor emeritus, George William Casey, 87, dies at the East Village Nursing Home.

Aug. 28 — Presidential hopeful Gary Hart's campaign brings him to Lexington, where the Colorado Democratic senator stops to meet with supporters at a Reed Street home.

Sept. 1 — The Assemblies of God Christian Center will move into the former Franklin School on Allen Street. The lease for the school calls for paying \$45,000 to the town, plus utilities and insurance costs.

Oct. 16 — Boston Celtics basketball star Larry Bird comes to Depot Square to mark the start of the annual Charley Davidson Walkathon to raise funds for children with leukemia. The fund was named for a Lexington youngster who died of the disease.

Nov. 9 — A housemaster and mathematics teacher at LHS pleads innocent to charges of possession, distribution and conspiracy to violate controlled substance laws.

Dec. 5 — Selectmen appoint seven members to LexHAB (Lexington Housing Assistance Board), a panel responsible for overseeing the Muzzey School conversion project.

December — Census figures for 1980 show there are fewer residents, more

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working mothers, more divorced adults and more children living in families on the edge of poverty since the 1970 census.

Dec. 19 — Selectmen accept a proposal from Arts/Lexington to use part of the former Munroe School on Mass. Ave. as studio and work space for area artists.

Dec. 19 — After more than two years of planning and meetings, selectmen sign the special permit which allows the conversion of the former Muzzey School to affordable housing units and a senior center in space the town will lease.

1984

Population (1980 census) - 29,479

Valuation (FY85) - \$1,309,021,300

Fire alarms - 2,350

School enrollment - 4,952

Tax rate (FY85) \$20.46 res./\$29.90 com.

Motor vehicle accidents - 1,238

Dog licenses - 2,591

Building permits - 774

Jan. 19 — A feasibility report presented to the Center Revitalization Committee indicates that a Center parking garage might be expected to be self-supporting after a year of operation. Planning Director Robert Bowyer estimates a three-story parking garage would cost \$6M.

January — Anne Doris MacDougall writes a 100-page history of Lexington's First Baptist Church, "This Way We Came." The publication culminates a year of celebrations marking the church's 150th birthday.

Feb. 12 — Vandals cause an estimated \$10,000 in damage at the Museum of Our National Heritage on Marrett Road when they remove a statue of George Washington from its base outside and string it from a nearby tree.

Feb. 18 — California Sen. Alan Cranston visits Clarke Junior High School as part of his presidential campaign tour.

March 13 — Lexington voters join the rest of the state in supporting US Sen. Gary Hart for the Democratic presidential nomination. Hart receives 2,140 votes, while former US Sen. George McGovern gets 1,538 and former Vice President Walter Mondale ends up with 1,446 here.

March 27 — The School Committee agrees to take the state to court rather than comply with a new law requiring public school systems to pay for transporting private school students within town boundaries.

April 9 — By a two-thirds roll-call vote, Town Meeting rejects a one-year moratorium on development in the Center.

April 30 — Town Meeting barely nixes the purchase of the 103-acre Pine Meadows Country Club and adjacent parcel off Cedar Street. The vote, which was 113-57 in favor, is one vote short of the two-thirds majority required to acquire the property for \$1.85M.

April — Boston Magazine reports Lexington is the safest of 32 Greater Boston communities in the first six months of 1983.data.

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May 17 — A Cambridge man is shot and killed running from law enforcement officers during a thwarted theft attempt at the Coolidge Bank and Trust Company on Mass. Ave. in East Lexington.

June 19 — The School Committee votes to close Maria Hastings Elementary School effective September 1986 due to declining enrollment. The building will be retained by the town and leased for the short term.

June 26 — Before an audience of almost 300 residents at Clarke Junior High School, US Rep. James Shannon and Lt. Gov. John Kerry, rivals for the Democratic Senate nomination, exchange jabs at a forum sponsored by the Committee for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze.

July 13 — Wilson Farm celebrates its 101st birthday with a party and publication of "The Wilson Farm Country Cookbook." Author Lynne Wilson is the wife of Alan who runs the farm with his cousin Donald. Their grandfather, James Alexander Wilson, started the business with his brother in 1884, renting part of the present farm on Pleasant Street. By the 1990s, seven of James' great-grandchildren had joined the thriving family business.

Aug. 20 — The Meriam Street parking lot gets a new look, with a ticket booth and attendant at the Depot Square entrance and a ticket machine at Meriam Street. After a week of operation, nine of 10 customers surveyed approve of the new attendant parking program. The new program allows attendants to stack cars in the aisles during busy times. Lot fees are unchanged: 10 cents per hour, 75 cents per day.

August — After 26 years with the Police Dept., Capt. James Lima is retiring in September to become chief of security at the Burlington Mall.

Sept. 13 — Residential real estate bidding wars are sparked by a scarcity of local houses on the market, coupled with low interest rates. Many homes are selling for more than the asking price, some by as much as tens of thousands of dollars.

Sept. 20 — Council on Aging figures for 1983 list 5,100 residents age 60 or over an increase of 32% since 1970.

September — After 101 years in business, Lexington Lumber on Bedford Street is closing. The building is being sold to A and D Realty Trust — principals Alfred and Daniel Busa — to build an office complex.

Oct. 1 — Selectmen say Adams-Russell cable television's offering of the Playboy Channel violates the contract signed four years ago.

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Oct. 9 — Lexington Center motorists find rush hour slower due to a ruptured water main that leaves a hole 5-feet in diameter, on Mass. Ave. The water is several feet deep on the eastbound side of the street near Cary Library.

October — Resident Barbara Ehrlich White writes the first comprehensive biography of Pierre-Auguste Renoir, "Renoir: His Life, Arts, and Letters." The book, which was in the works 23 years, is based on 1,000 of Renoir's own letters and other primary sources.

Oct. 24 — A Bridge School third-grader in the METCO program dies in a school bus accident near his Dorchester home. The boy had bent down to retrieve a dropped raincoat and was pinned under the bus.

Oct. 30 — Ground is broken for the \$6M Metropolitan District Commission sewer project. The Millbrook Valley Interceptor will begin in East Lexington and continue along the railroad right-of-way and hookup with a Bedford main near Bedford and North Hancock streets.

Dec. 12 — Bradley Page is charged with the murder of Roberta "Bibi" Lee and arraigned in Oakland, Calif., municipal court. Lee, 24, was a Lexington resident and a student at the University of California, Berkeley. Her body was found in Oakland's Joaquin-Miller Park where she was last seen jogging Nov. 4.

1985

Population - 29,224

Valuation (FY86) - \$1,338,290,900

Fire alarms - 2,396

School enrollment - 4,713

Tax rate (FY86) - \$20.89 res./\$30.54 com.

Motor vehicle accidents - 1,396

Dog licenses - 2,315

Building permits - 776

Jan. 3 — Lexington's first babies of the year, Amanda and Danielle Breen, are born seven minutes apart to Michael and Sheila Breen of Lake Street.

Jan. 3 — Services are held for environmental champion and political activist Manfred "Fred" Friedman, 56, who died unexpectedly at his Grove Street home.

Jan. 21 — Due to a lawsuit initiated by the School Committee, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court rules that local communities do not have to provide busing to private schools unless financial aid is provided.

February — Local portrait artist Robert Alexander Anderson, known for his "Breck Girl" portraits, paints and designs the new 11-cent postage stamp featuring Alden Partridge, military educator.

March — A Battered Women's Information Hotline is available in Lexington for the first time, operating from the RePlace Counseling and Drop-In Center.

March 23 — Ben Freitas closes the doors of his Countryside Deli after 30 years of serving breakfasts and lunches. The deli's stucco and wood-paneled dining area at the corner of Woburn and Lowell streets has been home to members of a regular morning "breakfast club."

April — Lexington residents lost property valued at nearly \$1.1M to thieves in 1984. The frequency of theft has decreased in recent years but the value has steadily grown.

April 22 — Town Meeting rejects Minuteman Tech's request to build a hotel/conference center.

April 24 — Trash begins going to a regional facility in North Andover. By generating electricity, it is hoped the trash will create revenue for the town.

April 29 — Elie Wiesel — humanist, author, concentration camp survivor and recent recipient of the US Congressional Gold Medal — comes to Temple

Life in Lexington



When Hurricane Gloria blows into town in late September, trees are uprooted and nearly half the town is without power from a few hours to five days. Lexington Minuteman photo

Emunah. Wiesel honors temple member Nathum Glatzer as the congregation's man of the year.

May 30 — An LHS math teacher and administrator gets a 10-year sentence at the Mass. Correctional Institution for cocaine sales and distribution. He has been on leave from the school system without pay since his November, 1983, arrest.

June — Four Lexingtonians and one former resident are among the hostages on the June 14 Trans World Airline Flight 847 from Athens to Rome. Four are held and released June 16 and 17. A fifth, Arthur Toga, is held by Shiite Moslem terrorists and released after 17 days.

June 19 — Lexingtonian Robert Alvidrez is killed by gunmen in a San Salvador cafe. He was there on business for his employer, Wang Laboratories.

Aug. 13 — After months of negotiations, Emerson College drops its bid to buy Pine Meadows Country Club and signs an agreement to purchase a Bedford golf course as the site of its new campus.

Sept. 12 — With the US-French expedition to the sunken Titanic in the news, Titanic survivor and former resident Marjorie Newell Robb tells her story of boarding the second lifeboat and rowing away from the sinking ship. She also talks of the bravery of her father, prominent businessman Arthur Newell, who lost his life in the tragedy.

September — Dan H. Fenn Jr. announces he is leaving his position as the first director of the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library, a job he has held for 14 years. Fenn had worked on JFK's staff in 1961 as a recruiter of ambassadors, secretaries and commissioners.

Sept. 30 — Selectmen vote unanimously to take the 88-acre Pine Meadows Country Club and an adjacent 6.2-acre parcel by eminent domain. The town estimates the value of the property at approximately \$2.7M. The following day, selectmen are notified a purchase and sale agreement for \$4M has been signed

Life in Lexington

between the golf course owner and Associated Enterprises Land Trust.

October — After a process that spanned two Town Meetings and two years, the Muzzey School condominium conversion is complete. Sixty are affordable units, with prices ranging from \$35,000 for a single person to \$43,000 for a family of four; 10 are LexHAB rental units. The building also includes the Senior Center with space leased to the town.

October — Police Detective Lt. George “Mike” Forten retires.

Nov. 25 — A 17-year-old Arlington youth, Shawn Boucher, is found guilty of first-degree murder and is sentenced to life in prison without parole for the death of Lexington teenager James Pirkle.

1986

Population - 29,579
Valuation* (FY87) - \$2,901,827,200
Fire alarms - 2,501
School enrollment - 4,564

Tax rate* (FY87) - \$9.94 res./\$16.41 com.
Motor vehicle accidents - 1,182
Dog licenses - 2,215
Building permits - 768

*Reflects 1986 property revaluation.

January — Boston's Coting School for Handicapped Children may merge with the Krebs School on Concord Avenue.

Feb. 2, 3 — At least seven Follen Hill homes are burglarized after thieves shatter windows and unlock doors. Stolen items include electronic equipment, jewelry and art.

February — A minority of 1,250 LHS students anonymously surveyed say they have used some form of drugs or alcohol at school. Half know someone they could get drugs from at LHS.

Feb. 18 — An icy storm puts 1,400 residents in the dark and triggers accidents and downed trees.

February — Two river otters found on Lowell Street were apparently killed by a car. Otters are rare in this area.

March 4 — An 18-year-old LHS student takes her life by carbon monoxide poisoning. LHS sets programs on loss and grief after reports of unsuccessful suicide attempts by five students.

March 11 — A \$200,000 blaze damages a third of the Bridge School. Officials say "the fire appears to be incendiary." Students, staff are evacuated; two firefighters are injured.

March 13 — The "Spenser: For Hire" TV series cast, including star Robert Urich, is in town filming an episode.

March — Collaborative Research off Spring Street will be the town's first recombinant DNA research site.

April 1 — Greyline ends its commuter bus to Boston because it "is not cost effective."

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April 10 — A Jamaica Plain man is arraigned on charges related to the March 23 robbery of a local home where a house sitter, at knife point, was bound with appliance cords. A second man, arrested earlier will also be arraigned today.

April 14 — A new bylaw aims to halt demolition of historic or “significant” sites, allowing time to see if they can be saved.

April — “The Victory Garden” national TV show is being taped at its new home, Lexington Gardens on Hancock Street.

April — Paul Ramos, 41, is sentenced to life in prison without parole for the brutal slaying of a 29-year-old local woman on a secluded Carlisle road Sept. 12.

April 19 — About 175 couples enjoy a Cary Hall Victorian Ball, one of many events celebrating the Historical Society’s 100th anniversary.

April 28 — Town Meeting endorses Choate-Symmes Life Care’s plan for the Brookhaven retirement complex on Waltham Street.

April 30 — A 16-year-old local boy faces two counts of “open and gross lewdness” and being a disorderly person, the first arrest in a string of 20 incidents over five months.

April — It is hoped absorbent pads placed in the North Lexington Brook and a marsh will prevent more damage from oil which may be entering from a leaking underground oil tank.

May 7 — Town Meeting gives retiring Town Clerk Mary McDonough the pink-skirted table she used for 160 sessions.

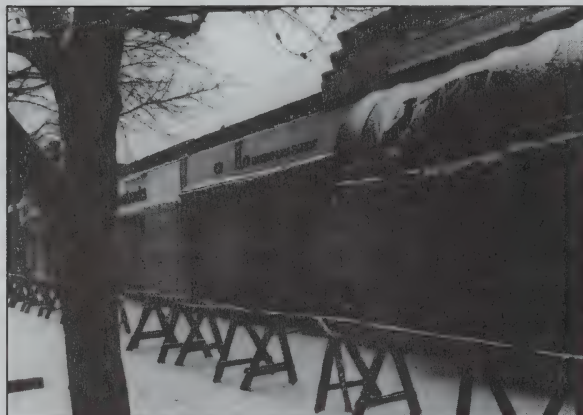
May 8 — Grace Chapel reverses its decision to move from Lexington. The church had planned to build in Lincoln.

May — Sewage is flowing through the new \$4M Millbrook Valley sewer interceptor designed to prevent surcharging and backups in areas including the Saddle Club Road neighborhood.

May — Birdwatchers flock to an owl’s nest in a tall pine off the Metropolitan State Hospital Grounds on Concord Avenue.

May — Britain’s Independent Television is in Lexington to tape a show on how Americans view the British.

June 20 — Today is the last day of school for 306 Maria Hastings School



A four-alarm fire of "suspicious origin" destroys six stores in the Center on Nov. 30. Four firefighters are injured and damages are estimated at more than \$1M. The investigation continues. Lexington Minuteman photo

students and the last day this building will be used as a Lexington school for the foreseeable future.

June 24 — The state approves Lexington's request for 60% reimbursement of an \$11.8M bill to repair and upgrade all schools except Hastings. Town Meeting endorsed the plans May 12.

June 28 — The Field and Garden Club opens its Munroe Tavern garden that-

features plants grown only in colonial times.

July — A Frisbee foursome would violate new regulations governing activities on the Battle Green. The rules spell out what is allowed, allowed by permit and prohibited on this historic site where a monument marks the graves of April 19, 1775 victims of British fire.

July — The Higashi School, famous for its exercise-oriented "Daily Life Therapy" for autistic children, will lease the former Maria Hastings School. The Boston Higashi school will be the first outside of Japan.

July — Ralph Hayes uses a metal detector to unearth a 1766 or 1769 Irish half-penny behind Buckman Tavern. He gives the coin to the Historical Society.

July 16 — Lexington EMT Sam Palmer and firefighter Paul Donahue help deliver a baby girl to Eileen Beckett while the town ambulance battles rush-hour Bedford Street traffic.

July 29 — Selectmen and the developer deny claims of equipment and structural problems at the Muzzey affordable housing/senior center complex.

August — Former Bridge School Principal Lester E. Goodridge receives \$65,000 along with other benefits in a settlement with the School Committee over his 1983 dismissal.

Aug. 8 — Police seize a marijuana crop growing in the Great Meadow with a street value of \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Life in Lexington

Aug. 21 — Police issue an arrest warrant for Paul Dunn, 23, who they believe shot his wife Pamela and dumped her body in the Hartwell Avenue Landfill. She was five months pregnant.

August — The town's 1986 "list of persons" creates a stir. Its new ageless format omits year of birth.

Aug. 28 — An ad offers "A little Williamsburg" grande cape for \$339,000. A Drummer Boy condo sells for \$225,000.

Sept. 5 — The state votes \$1.5M to build the 11-mile Minuteman Commuter Bikeway from Cambridge to Arlington, Lexington and Bedford.

Oct. 18 — About 3,000 bask under sunny skies at the Chamber of Commerce's seventh Oktoberfest celebration in the Center.

Nov. 16 — An Emerald Street home, built by Minuteman Tech students in cooperation with the town and Rotary Club, will be rented by LexHAB to a family with low- or moderate-income.

November — Water in one of four local homes included in a 1985 Environmental Protection Agency survey has excessive lead in first-drink-of-the-day samples.

Nov. 18 — New combined water/sewer rates are up 57% since last year.

Nov. 26 — A 12-year-old Lexington tradition is rekindled Thanksgiving Day as LHS majorettes twirl with flaming batons.

Dec. 4 — More than 2,200 concerned residents come to Cary Hall armed with questions about their property tax bills.

Dec. 18 — The 152-unit Emerson Gardens apartments off Maple Street will be converted to condos after a \$24M sale. Tenants must indicate if they wish to buy their unit by May 1.

1987

Population - 29,361

Valuation (FY88) - \$2,929,754,700

Fire alarms - 2,782

School enrollment - 4,469

Tax rate (FY88) - \$10.32 res./\$17.14 com.

Motor vehicle accidents - 1,412

Dog licenses - 2,210

Building permits - 795

Jan. 20 — Former Cary Library Assistant Director William F. Buckley is dead. He was kidnapped in West Beirut in 1984 and an extremist Shiite group claimed he had been executed. Later Buckley was identified as CIA station chief in Beirut.

January — Temple Emunah “adopts” the Yuzefovich family, a Jewish family struggling to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

Feb. 2 — A special Town Meeting approves \$450,000 for unexpected trash disposal costs. Members also honor Lincoln P. Cole Jr., who served 17 years as town moderator and earlier represented Lexington in the state Legislature.

February — For the first time in more than a decade, the Town Meeting warrant has no commercial or multifamily rezoning requests.

Feb. 8 — A tenants group forms at Emerson Gardens apartments to deal with conversion of the complex to condominiums under new owners, Properties of Boston and Ren-bel.

Feb. 17 — A tanker truck with 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel flips on a ramp near Routes 128 and 2A, spilling all but 700 gallons and tying up traffic. Cleanup may take weeks.

March 2 — Former Selectman Margery Battin’s election gives Lexington its first female town moderator.

March — North Lexington Association members get more than 500 signatures on a petition opposing further development at Hanscom Field.

March — Sacred Heart Pastor Rev. Foley is transferred following months of controversy. Some parishioners began calling for the new pastor’s resignation in January, saying he was abandoning the church’s liberal tradition. Others, however, welcomed the changes he made. At one point, some disgruntled parishioners stopped donations and contributed to an alternative fund.

March — Concerns are raised about the lack of black teachers in local schools and problems of a “monochromatic” staff.

April 1 — After heated debate, Town Meeting rejects the \$22.3M proposed school budget and adopts a figure \$150,000 lower.

April 6, 8 — Town Meeting approves a sidewalk for part of Prospect Hill Road and endorses water and sewer enterprise funds. Members also agree to spend \$180,000 for Lincoln Street field improvements and \$180,000 for conservation land next to Tower Park.

April — LHS Principal Michael Waring has been asked to resign. No reasons are cited.

April — Town Manager Robert Hutchinson is named state Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

April 28 — The school board endorses the “concept” of the system’s first user fees.

April — Massport scraps plans for a proposed 120-room hotel on Hanscom Field property.

May 1 — Center Field #2 lights shine for the first time as the LHS varsity girls’ softball team hosts Winchester. Also in May under the lights, Youth Commissioners battle a town Allstar team including the manager, department heads and elected leaders. Despite strong hitting by Selectmen Bill Dailey, Paul Marshall and Leo McSweeney, the Allstars lose.

May 7 — School Supt. J. Geoffrey Pierson accepts a job at the American International School in Vienna.

May 19 — Paul Dunn is sentenced to mandatory life in prison without parole in the death of his pregnant wife Pamela.

May 20 — A \$150,000 fire guts a Minuteman Tech classroom.

June 7 — Following commencement, LHS seniors are treated to the school’s first all-night graduation party at the high school. They call it “awesome.” About 83% of 1987 LHS grads will pursue higher education. The top choice



Richard A. Spiers, who started out as a DPW laborer in 1960, is named to head the department 27 years later. Lexington Minuteman photo

Life in Lexington

is UMass Amherst. Ten chose Harvard.

June 11 — The Muzzey Condominiums may have a new problem — asbestos. Removal costs could be high. The building recently won two awards for design and construction.

June 26 — The school board puts LHS Principal Michael Waring on paid leave of absence, pending dismissal proceedings.

July 6 — Selectmen allow the Coffee Connection to move four tables to the sidewalk in good weather. Rental of sidewalk space is \$75/month.

July 9 — Six firefighters help Sharon Schott deliver twins, a boy and girl, at her mother's Peachtree Road home.

July 14 — State Rep. Stephen Doran will gain about 7,000 Lincoln constituents, the result of a shrinking state population and new district lines approved on Beacon Hill.

July — If a suitable site is found and financing is available, the Center Committee plans to pursue construction of a 100-car parking deck in the Center.

July 16 — A hit-and-run pedestrian accident and some "near misses" spark plans for a crosswalk law education campaign.

July — Cablevision will acquire Adams-Russell Cable TV in a \$301M friendly takeover.

July 24 — Temperatures sizzle to 96 degrees; 2,383 residents beat the heat at the town pool and Old Res.

July 30 — Five cyclists are taken to hospitals this week after five separate accidents, all in daylight.

August — Residents in the Pheasant Brook Estates area have some new neighbors, a family of red fox.

Aug. 29 — A Boston Edison substation fire off Route 2A cuts power to 20,000 customers including most of Lexington.

September — About 85% of the LHS faculty urges the school board to reconsider its plan to dismiss the principal, Michael Waring.

Sept. 28 — Bedford Town Manager Richard J. White, 34, is appointed Lexington's town manager at a salary of \$65,000 for the first year.

September — Police report the local crime rate dropped 30.9% in 1986.

Oct. 15 — Developer Mark Moore Jr. agrees to buy the 88-acre Pine Meadows Country Club plus two small parcels for about \$8M, but the town will have the option to acquire it for fair market value if the current recreational use changes.

Oct. 19 — Local officials and economists say it's "too early to tell" the effects of a record-breaking stock market crash.

Oct. 19 — North Lexington residents say they want no improvements made to Bedford Street after seeing a state "compromise plan" with no light at Eldred Street.

Nov. 10 — About 300 teachers air their contract concerns at a Battle Green rally, citing low pay in comparison with some neighboring communities. "I don't think Lexington has seen its last revolution," says teacher's union president Richard Sandberg.

Nov. 23 — The School Committee votes to dismiss Michael Waring as LHS principal. Waring vows to fight the action.

Dec. 21 — A resident and Browne & Nichols teacher is free on a suspended sentence after he pleads guilty to rape and two charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.



Supporters march outside the School Administration Building during a teachers strike that lasted Nov. 30 to Dec. 6, 1987. The strike ends as teachers ratify a contract with a 23% raise over three years. Lexington Minuteman photo

1988

Population - 29-294

Valuation (FY89) - \$2,975,649,55

Fire alarms - 2,639

School enrollment - 4,370

Tax rate (FY89) - \$10.89res. /\$18.10 com.

Motor vehicle accidents - 1,340

Dog licenses - 2,075

Building permits - 828

Jan. 5 — About 500 people pack Cary Hall for an open forum with Sen. Edward Kennedy.

January — Helen Van Nostrand, BayBank VP/banking manager, is the first female Lexington Rotary Club member.

January — Contractor Vincent Cerbone is restoring the pre-Revolutionary Bowman Tavern at 837 Mass. Ave., dividing the space into two condominiums.

February — New School Supt. Philip Geiger believes a school system should run like a business, but "kids should be the most important product." His salary is about \$100,900/year including benefits.

Feb. 28 — Lexington US Olympic athlete and hockey player Steve Leach is honored at a surprise party, held at the Waltham Street Elks Lodge.

March — The Historical Society plans to paint the white Buckman Tavern clapboards the pale mustard color they were in 1775.

March 31 — The Historical Commission declares the 1700s Allen-Swenson Farmhouse on Allen Street a "preferably preserved structure," ensuring six months to explore options before demolition.

April — A "Public Schools, USA" rating says the local school system is among the top 10 in the country.

April — A consultant's report says Lexington has the potential to create up to 325 affordable housing units on four town sites.

April 6 — Town Meeting approves a report that designates Waspam, Nicaragua, as Lexington's newest Sister City.

April 18 — The US Navy and the Lions Club dedicate a memorial honoring the five ships named Lexington. The monuments are next to the Visitors Center.



More than 1,200 residents team up to build the Lexington Community Playground from June 15 to 19, 1988. In addition to donating time, more than \$57,000 is raised for the project from contributions and events. A WBZ-TV crew tapes work in progress. Lexington Minuteman photo

April 19 — Twenty-one Fiske Elementary School students testify on Beacon Hill in support of a bill the children wrote to make plastic six-pack yokes biodegradable.

April — There is no April school vacation because of snow cancellations and the teachers strike, but many LHS seniors and juniors take at least part of the week off.

April 20— Bradley Nelson Page is found guilty of manslaughter in the 1984 death of resident and CU Berkeley student Roberta “Bibi” Lee. Sentencing will be in June. Page was found innocent of murder in 1986 but the jury split 8-4 on manslaughter, triggering a second trial. Page confessed to Oakland police on tapes, but two hours later recanted it.

May 16 — Town Meeting votes to allow town officials to impose fines for noncriminal local bylaw violations. Members defeat a pooper-scooper bylaw that would have required dog owners to dispose of feces their pets leave in public places or private property. A similar law eventually passes in 1994.

May 24 — Lawyers for Muzzey Condominium trustees file suit against the developer, the architectural firm and contractor for the Muzzey condos, seeking damages for structural defects and repairs.

June 3 — Assistant to the Town Manager Susan Adler leaves for a post in the state Dept. of Personnel Administration.

Life in Lexington

June 12 — The LHS graduation is delayed slightly to avoid a conflict with the Thunderbirds precision flying team's Hanscom Field appearance.

June 16 — The Middlesex County DA's office files a civil complaint, charging Lexington selectmen with violating the Open Meeting Law during the process of hiring a town manager.

June 27 — David A. Wilson is named permanent LHS principal.

July 14 — Minute Man National Historical Park researchers believe a Marrett Street site was once the Jacob Whittemore blacksmith shop. A "dig" unearths horseshoe nails.

July 21 — Hayward Avenue area residents band together to fight Minute Man Park's plans to eventually acquire their neighborhood. Meanwhile park and town officials work on a plan that might save the 20 homes earmarked for acquisition.

Aug. 8 — Selectmen want to shed some light on different types of street lighting. They agree to study alternatives to the yellowish sodium vapor lights Boston Edison suggests as a way to pare town electricity bills.

August — A commuter airline offers four direct flights daily from Hanscom Field to New York City. Catskill Airways flies weekdays from Hanscom to three New York destinations.

Aug. 15 — In Lexington's second Prop. 2 1/2 referendum, nearly 60% of registered voters turn out to lift the state's 2.5% tax cap and allow the town to exercise its option to buy Pine Meadows Country Club. Owner Moore Homes plans a civil suit against the town based on the town's \$11M estimate of value. Moore Homes' estimates are as high as \$15M.

Sept. 7 — LHS Principal Michael Waring is back after an appeals court judge's ruling reinstates him as LHS principal. Recently hired LHS principal David Wilson will be acting assistant superintendent for secondary schools at his current salary.

Sept. 15 — The police search widens for missing resident Virginia C. Douglas, 69. Her husband reported the Follen Road woman missing when she failed to return to the car after entering a department store in Belfast, Maine, over Labor Day weekend. Lexington and Mass. state police traveled to Maine to help investigate.

Sept. 16 — The town and Moore Homes agree on a \$11.3M deal that allows Lexington to buy Pine Meadows Country Club and Moore Homes to manage

Life in Lexington

the golf course through 1989.

September — Patricia and William DeBonte will buy the Allen-Swenson farmhouse and move it to Kendall Road and Grapevine Avenue on Oct. 31. The house, where Minute Man Joseph Smith lived, was to be demolished.

September — Deborah B. Radway is selected from four finalists to be assistant to the town manager.

Oct. 3 — The state's first mandatory program for curbside recycling of glass, newsprint, magazines and aluminum begins here.

October — Tests reveal lead levels in water from LHS and Bowman School bubblers exceed federal standards.

November — Tests show four schools — Bridge, Diamond, Estabrook and Fiske — have levels of radon exceeding EPA guidelines. Officials say there does not appear to be an imminent health hazard. In September, an Environmental Protection Agency study reported one of four area homes has radon gas, which is said to cause 15,000 lung cancer deaths a year.

Nov. 8 — Local voters, 90% of them, turn out to choose Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis (57%) over national winner George Bush (40%).

November — Howard Johnson's restaurant, a Route 128 landmark for three decades, closes. A Roy Rogers restaurant will take its place.

Nov. 27 — Two people are injured Sunday in the crosswalk opposite 1794 Mass. Ave. in Lexington Center

Dec. 4 — A man is killed and four persons injured when their car hits a tree on Winchester Drive. They were not wearing seat belts.

1989

Population - 29,677

Valuation (FY90) - \$3,772,381,900

Fire alarms - 2,703

School enrollment - 4,393

Tax rate (FY90) - \$9.20 res./\$15.94 com.

Motor vehicle accidents - 1076

Dog licenses - 1,903

Building permits - 782

January — Craft Cleaners will convert its Edison Way building into six retail stores, one a drop-off cleaners.

Jan. 23 — The Field and Garden Club will place identifying plaques on 30 trees in the Buckman Tavern area.

Jan. 26 — Channel 5 TV weather forecaster Dick Albert visits Estabrook School.

February — After a series of accidents, selectmen order a review of crosswalk issues. On Jan. 3, an LHS freshman was struck by a van, then hurled under a truck as he tried to cross in a Mass. Ave. crosswalk. Ten days earlier, a Center Committee member became the fourth person in five months to be hit in a Center crosswalk.

Feb. 13 — Hayward Avenue neighbors heave a sigh of relief as Minute Man Park officials drop plans to acquire 20 properties in the Hayward Pond area.

Feb. 17 — Hall of Fame pitcher Vernon (Lefty) Gomez dies at the age of 80. He played for the New York Yankees, but lived off season for more than a decade with his wife June's parents at 83 Oak St. When the Yankees came to town Lefty would bring teammates to visit, including Babe Ruth and Joe DiMaggio.

Feb. 27 — A Diamond Middle School student is allegedly found with a live .22 caliber bullet in school. On March 1, a junior is suspended for carrying a hunting knife at LHS.

March 1 — Lexington usually gets 65 inches of snow a year but only 10.5 inches has fallen since December 1988.

March — Former resident Dr. Louis Sullivan, 54, is named US Secretary of Health and Human Services. He is the only black member of President George Bush's cabinet.

March 17 — Well-drilling inquiries are pouring into the health department

following reports of soaring water rates.

March 21 — Selectmen honor resident Bridget Cotter who turns 100.

March 23 — The legal battle between Michael Waring and the school board ends with an agreement that calls for a financial settlement, a promotion and Waring's resignation by 1991.

March — Mary Van and James Sinek's single-family Plainfield Street house is being converted to a handicapped-equipped home on WGBH TV's "This Old House."

April 3 — A \$180,000 plan to reconstruct two Harrington school soccer fields scores at Town Meeting.

April — LHS enrollment may hit a 20-year low next year. Some tenured math and science teachers could face layoffs.

April 5 — The 7.2-acre Woodland Bird Sanctuary near Fiske School, made famous by Ada Clapham Govan's 1940 book "Wings at My Window," and a 4.4-acre tract with access to 200 acres in Burlington are given to the town for conservation.

April — Each day, the new mandatory recycling program saves the town 10 tons of trash and \$570 in disposal costs.

April 14 — More than 300 members of the school teachers union (Lexington Education Association) march at the Battle Green expressing dissatisfaction with Supt. Philip Geiger.

April 24 — Town Meeting approves expanding the Lexington Sheraton Inn on Marrett Road, adding 80 guest units.

April — Some Bowman School students discover 23 other US towns called Lexington, 20 named after Lexington, Mass.

May 1 — Plans for a permanent Lincoln Park restroom facility are withdrawn from Town Meeting. Neighbors are "delighted."

May 8 — Two housing committees are charged with studying affordable housing options and developing a specific plan for more affordable units.

May 9 — Marriott Hotels will manage Lexington's school lunch program. Supt. Philip Geiger says there is no cost to the school system since the program will be self-supporting.



In April of 1989, Carter Scott, 26, buys the Dana-Morell House, 627 Mass. Ave., and says he is determined to slowly restore this home where the Marquis de Lafayette once visited. Lexington Minuteman photo

May 11 — Lexington Savings Bank wins a proxy contest initiated by a Philadelphia-based firm. The challengers were seeking support to sell the bank.

June 1 — A fungus, which has killed hundreds of sun-fish and blue gills at the Old Res, is not a health threat, town officials report.

June — Phones at the Health Dept. buzz with complaints about biting mosquitoes.

Some callers want the town to spray for mosquito control.

June 19 — The LHS faculty endorses a statement citing a “lack of confidence” in Supt. Philip Geiger’s educational leadership.

June — Michael Waring becomes an assistant superintendent and David A. Wilson will replace Waring as LHS principal.

June 24 — More than 250 gather at the Battle Green to honor Chinese freedom fighters and mourn the 3,000 killed in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square

June 29 — Basic service rates for cable TV will jump 66%.

June — Teen skateboarders say they feel “like outlaws” after police enforce a 1974 bylaw banning “skating” on any street.

Aug. 1 — Resident and author Allen Grossman, 57, will receive a \$340,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

Aug. 15 — There is a “possibility” Virginia C. Douglas was the victim of a homicide, police say.

August — Selectmen want to explore any options the town has to legally block development at the 177-acre Great Meadow. Arlington is again weighing a possible golf course on the Arlington-owned site in Lexington.

Aug. 18 — A Middlesex Superior Court judge rules Lexington selectmen

Life in Lexington

violated the Open Meeting Law in September 1987 during the hiring of a town manager.

October — Ground is broken for the new handicapped access ramp at the Lexington Branch Post Office.

October — Symmes Hospital of Arlington becomes the state's first hospital in more than half a century to declare bankruptcy.

October — The state's first mandatory leaf collection/ curbside recycling program for yard waste is underway here. Leaves and clippings must be in barrels or biodegradable paper bags available at cost at more than a dozen local shops.

Oct. 26 — Six students have valuables totaling a few thousand dollars stolen from their LHS gym lockers.

Oct. 30 — Residents will pay 67% more (\$450 to \$750) for graves at Westview Cemetery. Cost for earth burials jumps \$250 to \$420 and cremation burial charges are rising.

Nov. 2 — Instead of demolishing a ranch-style house to build a larger one, a developer gives it to the town for affordable housing. The home will be moved to Skyview Road.

Nov. 5 — The Historical Society celebrates the 200th anniversary of Washington's trip to Lexington and Munroe Tavern. The events include a Diamond Middle School play re-enacting the 1789 luncheon gathering.

November — A fifth suspect is arrested in a crackdown on illicit behavior in Minute Man Historical Park's Fiske Hill area.

Nov. 7 — Four women escape unharmed when a lone gunman holds up Fancy Flea Antiques, taking valuable rings. Police say Robert Sparks, who is subsequently picked up in Atlantic City, N.J., will be charged with the robbery.

Nov. 18 — A 15-year-old local youth returns a car he stole last night from a 74-year old Lexington woman who had parked it at the Middlesex Mall lot. The youth leaves the car, with a note of apology, outside the woman's home and turns himself in to police.

November — A traffic island next to the Minute Man Statue is created to improve traffic flow and provide a safe spot for tourists to snap shots of Capt. Parker.

Life in Lexington

Nov. 28 — Grace Ayers and Claire Mager are the first women named as full members to the Lions Club of Lexington.

Dec. 11 — Christmas tree recycling is now mandatory. Trees will be chipped and the mulch used for planting throughout town.

December — Trash crews will inspect residential rubbish for recyclables. Officials warn that trash collection could stop at residences where recycling regulations are being ignored.

Dec. 31 — A vigil on the Battle Green fights intolerance after an African-American resident finds his car spray-painted with a Nazi swastika and the initials KKK. In addition to malicious destruction of property, police may pursue civil rights violations

1990

Population - 30,225	Tax rate (FY91) - \$11.16 res./\$22.28 com.
Valuation (FY91) - \$3,207,482,700	Motor vehicle accidents - 943
Fire alarms - 2,416	Dog licenses - 1,864
School enrollment - 4,522	Building permits - 743

Jan. 4 — More than one in 11 property owners files a property tax abatement request, almost double 1987's figure.

Jan. 9 — Residents angrily sound off about Cablevision's signal quality, personnel and service during an Estabrook Hall hearing.

Jan. 11 — A Lexpress bus plays Good Samaritan, whisking 30 members of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team and their families from a stranded bus on Route 128 to Lowell where they arrive in time for the tipoff.

Jan. 14 — The breakdown of a 128-wheel, 255-foot-long truck closes Route 2A, from Mass. Ave. to Waltham Street, for five hours.

Feb. 1 — A Prospect Hill cape/ranch with a master suite and two bedrooms is selling at \$219,000. A contemporary ranch is offered at \$325,000.

Feb. 20 — Lexpress service is up and running despite the slashing of tires on five buses last night. There are no suspects.

Feb. 23 — A lone bandit takes \$1,500 in a Coolidge Bank holdup, the third in eight years at this East Lexington bank.

Feb. 26 — Owners of 12 or more bed-and-breakfast establishments want to legalize, but not regulate, this type of lodging, which is not a permitted use in residential districts.

March 11 — Two masked gunmen surprise a couple outside their Summer Street home, taking a wallet and pocketbook with identification, credit cards, licenses and checkbooks.

March — Lexington traffic islands are slated for a facelift, thanks to a new Adopt a Rotary program. Town officials hope groups or individuals "adopt" more than 20 traffic islands and public places to reduce the workload in the fiscally strapped DPW.

March 26 — Local artists' prints, sculptures, paintings and enamel works, funded via the Lexington Council for the Arts and state Cultural Council, are on display throughout town.

Life in Lexington

April 1 — Shocked and saddened townspeople learn that former resident Anne Elizabeth Borghesani, 23, was brutally murdered yesterday in Virginia. Police are looking for a man involved in another assault and an attempted assault in the same area.

April 5 — Police arrest a Brockton man believed to have robbed Coolidge Bank March 2.

April 11 — Despite a fiscal crisis, Town Meeting approves \$1.2M in school capital requests. The projects, including building repairs, will be funded by bonding over several years. Zoning bylaws are amended to permit private flags and banners to fly in the commercial district.

April 23 — As of Aug. 1, 1991, tax bills will be due four times a year, instead of twice.

April 30 — A new phone exchange prefix — 674 — joins 860, 861, 862 and 863 as the system runs out of numbers.

May 3 — Town Meeting rocks with dissent prior to the vote favoring the concept of 40 units of affordable housing on the town's Meagherville/Pine Meadows tract. A vote on a specific plan is scheduled for a Special Town Meeting next fall.

May 15 — Middle school students living within two miles of school will not be eligible for free bus service next year. Students who live 1.5 to 2 miles away now get bused free.

May 15 — Residents may hold garage, yard or moving sales on Sunday, after a selectmen's vote.

May — Waltham Savings Bank plans to acquire the 119-year-old Lexington Savings Bank for \$25.5M.

May 29 — While the exact number of residents with AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases is impossible to pin down, the Board of Health believes the threat is serious enough to form an STD/AIDS task force.

May 31 — A leaky roof leads the town to file a \$60,000 suit against the LHS Field house's designers and contractor.

June 1 — Instead of dialing 862-0500, there are now nearly 30 numbers giving direct access to town offices. The new phone system saves \$25,000 in salary and benefits.

Life in Lexington

June — Plans to build a huge mail processing center employing 1,000 on the Lexington-Waltham line near Spring Street draws strong opposition from both towns.

June 11 — Voters approve a \$1.1M Prop. 2 1/2 override, agreeing to lift the state-mandated 2.5% limit on tax increases to raise funds that will help support services including Lexpress, the East Lexington Fire Station and the schools.

June 14 — A stormy chapter in the public schools ends as former LHS principal Michael Waring heads to a superintendent's post in Vermont.

July 1 — Plastic milk, water and soda bottles join the long list of items in the town's mandatory recycling program.

July 10 — At Cary Hall, People Against Hanscom Expansion members protest Continental Express' planned air service from Hanscom Field to Newark, N.J.

July — The Lexington Youth Summer Theatre celebrates its 10th anniversary with a production of "The Music Man."

July 19 — Police have no leads on the assailant who fired shots at two motorists on Route 128 in Needham and Lexington.

July 21 — A police pursuit that leaves two teens dead and another critically injured sparks debate over high-speed chases. The 18-year-old Bedford resident driving was charged with two counts of homicide with a motor vehicle.

July 21 — Three gunmen rob a Depositor's Trust vault on Hartwell Avenue, entering before the bank opens. They bind arriving employees with tape and make death threats. Once the time lock opens, the suspects take the money and run.

July — The Fire Dept. has a second emergency ambulance for the first time since the service began in 1940.

July 30 — A car hits a pedestrian in a Center crosswalk for the eighth time in two years.

Aug. 2 — Home heating oil costs skyrocket and local gas prices hit a new high after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

August — Symmes Hospital is on the road to recovery after a federal bankruptcy court lifts Chapter 11 bankruptcy and a reorganization plan approved.

Life in Lexington

September — An advertisement in Cosmopolitan and three other magazines features the Lexington/Bedford Packers Pop Warner team.

Sept. 6 — The number of parking tickets has doubled since the town hired a full-time parking officer.

September — Residents can soon pay town bills, including parking tickets, with VISA, MasterCard, American Express or Discover credit cards.

Sept. 27 — August Schumacher, former state commissioner of food and agriculture, is named mission chief for the World Bank's Eastern European Agricultural Division, but he will keep the family's Wood Street farmhouse.

October — Lemon Grass Thai restaurant replaces the Pewter Pot which closed after more than 20 years on Mass. Ave. Nearby Putnam Pantry Candy and Ice Cream closes suddenly.

October — LexHAB (Lexington Housing Assistance Board) buys 10 Emerson Gardens condos in a foreclosure auction. Average price of units was \$78,000.

Nov. 19 — A grand jury charges Michael Charles Satcher with capital murder in the March 31 death of Anne Borghesani.

Nov. 26 — An armed robber strikes Heritage Mobil Station, the fifth armed robbery in town in the last two months.

Nov. 28 — A Special Town Meeting rejects plans for affordable housing on town-owned land at Pine Meadows. Despite nearly two years of discussion and planning, the vote was far short of the two-thirds majority needed for passage.

Dec. 6 — After a slow start, business is booming at the Interfaith Food Pantry. The first week only one person came, three arrived the second week and 61 the third week. The service, run by volunteers, opened last month in Church of Our Redeemer space.

Dec. 3 — The town's tallest lighted evergreen, an 80-foot fir owned by the Perrys on Clarke Street, has some 1,500 bulbs.

Dec. 6 — Holiday tunes the Chamber of Commerce is broadcasting in the Center are music to the ears of some shoppers but they strike a sour note with others.

December — The Lexington Bicycle Safety Program, launched by local pediatrician Dr. Daniel Palant, urges parents to give children helmets for the holidays.

1991

Population - 29,697

Valuation (FY92) - \$3,051,398,800

Fire alarms - 2,758

School enrollment - 4,586

Tax rate (FY92) \$12.23 res./\$23.80 com.

Motor vehicle accidents *- 720

Dog licenses - 1,860

Building permits - 777

*Accidents now reported only if there is personal injury or damage over \$1,000.

January — Colonial Pharmacy, at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Waltham Street, closes after 36 years.

Jan. 4 — More than 200 people hold a candlelight peace vigil on the Green to show support for a nonmilitary resolution to escalating tensions in the Persian Gulf. The vigil was organized by the Lexington Coalition for Peace in the Persian Gulf, a group of recent LHS graduates.

Jan. 16 — After the US air attack on Baghdad begins the Gulf War, Sondra and John Lucente form a support group for families of men and women serving in the military operation.

January — Lemon Grass, in the former site of the Pewter Pot at 1710 Mass. Ave., is the first Thai restaurant in town and the first smoke-free restaurant in the Center.

Jan. 22 — Former Lexington resident William A. Brown, US ambassador to Israel, phones from Jerusalem just an hour before an Iraqi missile attack kills three people and injures 70 in Tel Aviv.

Feb. 6 — Nobel Prize-winning Dr. Salvador E. Luria, 78, dies of a heart attack in his Lexington home.

Feb. 9 — Lexington Minute Men's fifes and drums play at the Battle Green as families with members in Operation Desert Storm tie 15 yellow ribbons to trees ringing the historic battlefield.

Feb. 28 — Jubilation, mixed with relief, is the reaction to news of a ceasefire in the Persian Gulf War.

March 3 — Three cast-iron toy coin banks valued at between \$5,000 and \$7,000 are stolen from the Museum of Our National Heritage. It is the first theft since the museum opened 16 years earlier.

March — METCO is 25 years old. Lexington was one of the original participating communities.

April 10 — More than 200 special education students, including 55 from LHS's LABB Collaborative Program, tour the Celtics' chartered airplane parked at Hanscom Field and meet members of the Boston basketball team.



Each Patriots Day at dawn, members of the Lexington Company of Minute Men stage a re-enactment of the April 19, 1775 encounter on Lexington Green that launched the American Revolution. Lexington Minuteman photo

May — There have been nine local cases of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) since it was first reported as a disease in 1985.

May 16 — Monsignor John P. Keilty, pastor of St. Brigid's Catholic Church, celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination with a Farewell Mass and retires from the Lexington church. He came here in 1968.

July — Census figures show that though the total town population declined by almost 2% over the last decade — to 28,974 — the town's minority population jumped by 80%. Asians and Pacific Islanders show the greatest population increase.

July 9 — Cornelius P. "Neil" Cronin, 88, retires as director of Lexington's Battle Green Guides. Cronin was granted a lifetime guide's license, the only one ever issued. He is famous for bestowing gavels of Battle Green elm wood to local officials and residents.

July 31 — Michael Charles Sacher of Washington, D.C., is sentenced to death in Virginia's electric chair for the murder of former resident Anne Elizabeth Borghesani, 23, on an Arlington, Va., bike path in 1990.

Aug. 19 — Hurricane Bob roars into town and leaves 40 trees uprooted and 10,000 others damaged by the 50- to 60-mph winds. Two-thirds of the homes are without electricity, but no one is seriously hurt.

Aug. 26 — About 150 people gather on the Green to protest Judge Clarence Thomas' nomination to the Supreme Court.

Life in Lexington

Nov. 8 — The giant aircraft carrier USS Lexington is retired after 48 years of service. The 889-foot ship was named after another USS Lexington carrier that was sunk during World War II.

Nov. 26 — State and local officials break ground for the 11-mile Minuteman Bikeway, built on the abandoned Boston & Maine railroad bed that links Lexington, Arlington and Bedford to Cambridge. The \$2M project has been in the works for more than a decade.

Nov. 8 — The giant aircraft carrier USS Lexington is retired after 48 years of service. The 889-foot ship was named after another carrier with the same name that was sunk during World War II, both in honor of the Revolutionary War battle in Lexington.

Nov. 26 — State and local officials break ground for the 11-mile Minuteman Bikeway, built on the abandoned Boston & Maine railroad bed that links Lexington and Bedford to Cambridge. The \$2M project was in the works for more than a decade.

Dec. 8 — First Parish Church, Unitarian Universalist, celebrates its 300th birthday with services representing each century. The residents of what had been called Cambridge Farms petitioned the Massachusetts General Court three times for permission to form their own meetinghouse and finally received permission in December 1691.

1992

Population - 29,892

Valuation (FY93) - \$3,035,261,900

Fire alarms - 2,694

School enrollment - 4,706

Tax rate (FY93) - \$13.64 res./\$26.59 com.

Motor vehicle accidents - 739

Dog licenses - 1,961

Building permits - 789

January — Sarah Brophy becomes the Historical Society's first professional director.

Feb. 26 — Jeffrey Young, 39, of Waban is appointed superintendent of schools. Young replaces Philip Geiger, who left to take a position in New Jersey.

February — Lexington's Preschool PTA celebrates its 50th anniversary. The organization was the first of its kind in the area and is still one of the few in eastern Massachusetts. Public kindergarten started here in 1966.

February — The continuing fiscal crisis prompts new belt-tightening suggestions from Town Manager Richard White — possible sale of Westview Cemetery, layoffs of 25 more teachers and 35 municipal workers and the end of town ambulance service.

March 10 — In a 46% turnout, Lexington voters pick Democrat Paul Tsongas and Republican President George Bush as their presidential primary favorites. Tsongas gets 77% of the Democratic vote, while former California Gov. Jerry Brown receives 11.9% and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton gets 6%.

March — Lexington is graying. Census data shows the school-age population has dropped by nearly one-half in the past 20 years while the number of persons over 65 has doubled. The median age is 41.1 years, the highest in the state, and 10 years higher than in 1970. Statewide the median is 33.6 years.

March 19 — Two armed robberies take place within 10 minutes of one another during a morning snowstorm. One is at Fancy Flea Antiques in the Center, where a large quantity of jewelry is taken, and the other at Pioneer Financial Bank, formerly Coolidge Bank, on Mass. Ave. in East Lexington.

April 2 — Lexington psychiatrist Margaret Bean-Bayog is accused of malpractice and sexual misconduct in a suit filed by the family of a former patient, Paul Lozano. Lozano committed suicide April 2, 1991.

Life in Lexington

April 5 — Talk-show host Phil Donahue is at First Parish Church to tape a Public Broadcasting Service TV special on American health care.

April — More than 900 residents sign petitions to put Ross Perot's name on the presidential ballot as an independent candidate.

April — S. Lawrence Whipple is named director of the Battle Green Guides, replacing the retiring Cornelius Cronin.

May 26 — The School Committee votes 4 to 1 in favor of making condoms available at LHS, an issue fraught with controversy.

May 31 — A class of 323 LHS graduates braves the rain to receive diplomas. The keynote speaker is William McKibben, LHS class of 1978. The former LHS Musket editor is a writer for *The New Yorker* and other publications.

June — Raytheon Co. announces the recession is forcing the firm to lay off 718 workers in its New England plants including 52 in Lexington.

June 15 — More than 60% of local voters favor a \$2.7M Prop. 2 1/2 tax cap override to fund trash collection and provide more funds for the school and library budgets.

July 5 — After a 20-year absence, a fireworks display on Crumb Field returns to the July 4 celebration, culminating the annual Lions Club festivities. The show was postponed a day due to rain.

July 26 — Lexington swimmer Scott Jaffe gets a bronze medal at the Summer Olympics in Barcelona. He is a member of the American freestyle 4 x 200-meter relay team.

August — Minuteman Bikeway safety becomes an issue as increasing numbers of people jam the path. Friends of the Bikeway is formed to deal with a series of bikeway issues including mixed uses on the path.

August — Town Assessor Harald Scheid announces examinations of the exteriors of all 8,900 single-family homes as part of an update on property evaluation.

August — Health officials urge residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites, as Highland J virus, which precedes Eastern equine encephalitis, is discovered in Bedford.

Aug. 23 — Kathleen Dempsey, 31, is found dead of multiple stab wounds in

Life in Lexington

her basement bedroom at 14 Ridge Road. She had called the Fire Dept. for help about five hours earlier. A dispatcher is placed on unpaid leave for failing to recognize Dempsey's call was authentic and not a hoax. There are no immediate murder suspects. Town Manager Richard White takes steps to review and strengthen the town's emergency response system.

Aug. 25 — A resident is sentenced to five years at the Mass. Correctional Institution at Cedar Junction for placing sexually explicit photographs into packages of Barbie, G.I. Joe and Midge dolls at the Ann & Hope Store in Watertown Mall.

September — Condoms are available at LHS this fall in cafeterias, the guidance area and nurses' offices. The packages contain information about sexual abstinence, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. More than 3,500 condoms are picked up the first six weeks of the program.

September — Despite the recession and downturn in the area's high-tech industry, Lexington's median income remains high. In figures just released by Northeastern University's Center for Labor and Market Studies, the median family income for the town in 1989 was \$76,410, up 24% from the 1979 figure of \$61,581 (in 1989 dollars).

September — Gulf War veteran Chris Dauer, 23, a Lincoln Lab security guard, joins other former troops in testifying he is suffering medical illnesses from serving in Operation Desert Storm. Dauer has a pituitary tumor, breathing problems, chest pains and lesions that he believes are connected to his six months of service.

Oct. 5 — Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores for LHS students are higher than they have been in five years, but both math and verbal scores have improved more for boys than girls, according to a report to the School Committee. School officials are looking at ways to close the apparent gender gap.

November — The school's new Gender Equity Committee will review gender issues in kindergarten through Grade 12.

Dec. 12-13 — A storm dumps 17 inches of snow. Utility lines are down and the plowing takes \$75,000 of the DPW's \$236,000 snow removal budget for this year.

December — The Paul Lozano family lawsuit against Dr. Margaret Bean-Bayog of Lexington is settled out of court for \$1M. Bean-Bayog surrenders her medical license and avoids a televised hearing on malpractice charges filed following his suicide.

1993

Population - 29,538

Valuation (FY94) - \$3,053,724,200

Fire alarms - 3,019

School enrollment - 4,929

Tax rate (FY94)- \$14.16 res./\$27.11 com.

Motor vehicle accidents - 800

Dog licenses - 1,972

Building permits - 792

January — Citizens for Responsible School Policy gathers more than 2,200 signatures for a nonbinding referendum question on the town election ballot about continuing the practice of condom availability at LHS.

Jan. 21 — Selectman John "Jack" Eddison, 73, dies after a brief illness.

Feb. 5 — The Board of Health learns of the first case of raccoon rabies in town. The raccoon had killed a dog on Lowell Street.

March 1 — Six months after the murder of Kathleen Dempsey, the family offers a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of her assailant.

March 2 — The Lexington Ridge multifamily complex moves closer to construction with approval from the Conservation Commission. The 198-unit development on 172 acres on Waltham Street will be the largest rental development in the town.

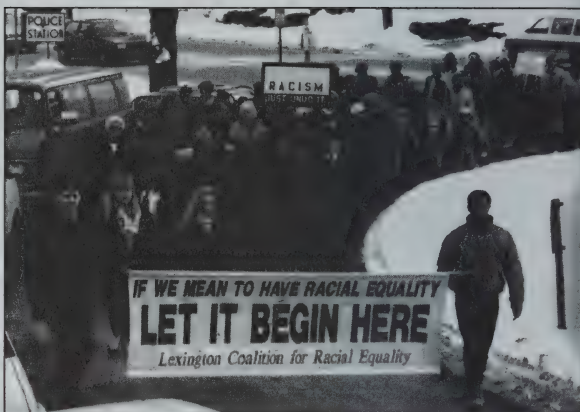
March 14 — Christopher and Jennifer Cummings of Mass Ave. build a 39-foot-long snow dinosaur in front of their Mass. Ave. home. The dinosaur is dyed green with six liters of food coloring, with cocoa-colored scales.

April 4 — Matthew J. Santosuosso, 16, dies as a result of injuries sustained when the car he was driving hit a utility pole on East Street at Ridge Road. Students bring flowers and gather at the accident scene. St. Brigid's Church is overflowing at the funeral Mass for the LHS varsity basketball and baseball player.

April — The appearance of knives at Clarke Middle School is one of the incidents that brings local school officials and police together to discuss school security. The issue of weapons in schools has become a nationwide concern.

May — Doran Greenhouses celebrates 100 years of farming on East Street. Operated by Guy and Elaine Doran, the business was started by Guy's great-grandfather Levi Doran, who moved from Brookline to grow flowers.

May 24 — Selectman Jacquelyn Smith, 64, dies of cancer at her home. A bouquet of peonies and lilies of the valley is placed at her nameplate at the selectmen's table. The flowers had been planted by fellow selectman Jack Eddison, who died four months earlier. Smith also served as Planning Board chairman, selectmen chairman and was a member of the Massachusetts Port Authority's (Massport) board of directors since her 1983 appointment by Gov. Michael Dukakis.



Hundreds of residents carrying banners against racism march up Mass. Ave. to Cary Hall, where a Jan. 17 program sponsored by the Lexington Coalition for Racial Equality commemorates the 30th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 visit to town. Lexington Minuteman photo

May — Harrington Road, bordering the Battle Green, is closed with Jersey barriers at Bedford Street on a trial basis. The action is taken to increase safety at a high-accident location, but some criticize it on aesthetic grounds and others ask whether the threat to safety is serious enough to close a significant Center street to through traffic.

May 29 — The Lexington segment of the Minuteman Bikeway is dedicated as the Jack Eddison Memorial Minuteman Bikeway, honoring the late selectman who was a loyal supporter of the project. Construction is not yet complete but the cyclists, walkers and skaters jam the path.

June 29 — About 200 well-wishers come to the station to honor Police Chief Paul E. Furdon, 63, who retires after four decades on the force.

July — Sheila E. Widnall, Lexington resident and chair of the MIT faculty, becomes the first woman to head any of the country's military services when she is named secretary of the US Air Force. Earlier she had been the first MIT alumna appointed to the faculty in the School of Engineering.

Aug. 10 — The Lexington Police Dept. is wired for Caller ID, a system that prints out a caller's number on a monitor, one year after the death of Kathleen Dempsey.

Sept. 1 — Lexington police help crack a multi-million dollar Oriental rug theft ring when three men are indicted on burglary charges. More than 300 rugs had been stolen over the past decade.

September — According to a new publication, “The Lifestyle ZIP Code Analyst,” Lexingtonians — in 02173 — like to tend gardens, read books and talk politics. They are likely to be in their 30s or 40s and earn more than \$100,000 per household.

September — About 600 people march in the rain to protest commercial air traffic at Hanscom Field. People Against Hanscom Expansion (PAHE) join neighbors from Concord, Lincoln and Bedford — the three other towns bordering the airfield — in the Battle Road Rally at Minuteman National Park.

October — Vacancy signs are up and property values are down along Hartwell Avenue and other commercial areas where development blossomed in the 1980s. Town Assessor Harald Scheid says this means, for at least another year, residential property owners will shoulder an increasing percentage of the town’s total tax burden.

Oct. 23 — Almost 1,100 cars show up at the 12th annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day, the biggest one so far. Residents fill 168 drums with pesticides, lead paint, solvents and batteries, topping last year’s total of 850 cars and 145 barrels collected.

Nov. 7 — Resident Carolyn C. Murphy, 69, is crowned Ms. Senior Sweetheart of Massachusetts. She goes on to become Ms. Senior Sweetheart of America.

Nov. 8 — Approximately 1,800 local residents in 598 households on 51 streets will change precincts without changing their addresses. The changes are forced by 1990 federal census population figures.

November — The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) announces it will not consider plans to expand Hanscom Field, but will instead look at ways to expand and improve Logan and Worcester airports.

Dec. 7 — Two men, both 21, are arraigned for allegedly firing a gun close to a group of students on LHS grounds.

December — School lunches will be slimming down following a federal report from the Department of Agriculture warning of saturated fat that exceed USDA requirements.

Dec. 21 — The School Committee approves a plan for redistricting the elementary schools to accommodate the reopening of Maria Hastings School in the fall of 1994.

1994

Population - 30,466	Tax rate (FY95) \$14 res./\$26.57 com.
Valuation (FY95) - \$3,217,037,200	Motor vehicle accidents - 813
Fire alarms - 3,345	Dog licenses - 1,980
School enrollment - 5,075	Building permits - 858

January — The Historic Districts Commission turns down a request by the owners of the 1830-era Garrity House to add to their structure at 9 Hancock St. The owners have a long-term lease to use the town-owned land where the house stands.

Jan. 16 — Olympic figure skater Nancy Kerrigan keeps a low profile as she is treated by Igor Burdenko at the Lexington Club for rehabilitation following a knee injury. Kerrigan was hit Dec. 6 by an accomplice of rival skater Tonya Harding after a practice session for the US Figure Skating championships.

January — In an effort to extend the use of Westview Cemetery, Public Works Director Richard Spiers suggests double-deck graves for every site. Westview is the only municipal cemetery selling plots since the Colonial Burial Ground and Munroe Cemetery no longer have grave sites available.

February — Razing small homes to free up lots for larger houses becomes a trend in town. Building Commissioner Steven Frederickson said that as land becomes more valuable and fewer lots are available, it becomes cost effective to replace a small house with a larger one. One of the leaders in the field is resident John Esserian of Homes Realty.

February — Lorne J. MacDougall files a wrongful death complaint against the town in the death of his wife Kathleen Dempsey. He cites "gross negligence" on the part of two Fire Dept. employees in responding to Dempsey's call after she was stabbed in August 1992. The suit is later settled out of court.

March 24 — The town is buried and the snow removal budget melts away. By the end of January, Lexingtonians had been hit with five major snowstorms in less than a month; now the total is 15 for the season and the DPW snow removal budget is \$236,700 in the red.

March — Fourth-graders in Steven Levy's class at Bowman School write about the biggest change in town since they were born: the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. Levy was named the state's Teacher of the Year in 1993.

Life in Lexington

March — La Tienda, the Mexican handcrafts and giftware shop in the Center, goes out of business. The shop opened in 1966 when Lexington and Dolores Hidalgo, Mexico became sister cities under the People-to-People program.

April 4 — There are complaints about the town ambulance service response after nine are hurt in a school bus-car collision on Lowell Street near Bryant Road. The accident comes just four days after Town Meeting rejects a plan to save money by hiring a private ambulance contractor.

April 25 — Town Meeting votes funds to reopen Maria Hastings School in September, for kindergarten through grade 4, with fifth grade to be added the following year. Since 1987, the school had been leased to the Boston Higashi School.

May — The Lexington Little League board of directors gives the go-ahead to Matt Varrin, 10, to play on one of the Farm League teams. Matt uses a wheelchair due to spina bifida and was previously banned from play for safety reasons.

May — Resident Henry Louis Gates Jr., chairman of the Afro-American Studies Dept. at Harvard University, reads from his memoir at the kickoff of Cary Library's \$3M endowment drive, Campaign for the New Century.

May — Federal Judge Richard Stearns rules against a suit filed March 26 by the Lexington Parents Information Network (LEXNET) charging a variety of school officials with censorship. The suit follows the refusal of the school newspaper to print a paid advertisement advocating sexual abstinence. The decision comes after a one-hour hearing in US Federal Court in Boston.

June 14 — Christopher Casey, 39, is appointed police chief, replacing Paul Furdon who retired in June 1993. Casey, who had been acting chief, grew up in town and was formerly a lieutenant on the force.

July — LHS student Jonathan Weinstein, 17, and five other members of the US math team take first place in the International Mathematics



In July, police officers take to their bikes to patrol the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway. Lexington Minuteman photo

Life in Lexington

Olympiad in Hong Kong, the first time in 35 years an American team has placed first.

August — A reception is held at Cary Library for director Robert Hilton who retires after 27 years of service.

Aug. 18 — A NYNEX van swerves across Route 128, hits the center guard rail and crashes into the cruiser of Lexington native, State Trooper Davison G. Whiting, killing him. At his funeral Mass, state officials, officers from all over the state, friends and family pay final tribute to their colleague and friend. The Route 128 overpass at Bedford Street is later dedicated in his memory.

August — Selectmen approve placement of 12 more teak benches throughout town. The benches are popular with the people who use them and the individuals or groups who want to honor someone or make a gift in memory of a loved one. Friends of Lexington Center Chairman Steven Hurley says 54 benches, which cost \$975 each, have been donated so far.

Sept. 8 — A renovated Maria Hastings School, decorated in shades of peach, lilac and apple green, re-opens for 300 students, becoming Lexington's sixth elementary school.

Oct. 16 — More than 300 people gather at the Battle Green in a Unity Vigil Against Racism and Violence to combat racist acts toward and by individuals in town.

Nov. 17 — The Board of Health votes unanimously to make all public buildings in town smoke-free by Feb. 15, 1995.

Nov. 21 — Paroled convicted child molester David Carroll, who recently moved to Lexington, creates international news when he faces a crowd of 500 to respond to resident concerns. "You cannot possibly be more afraid of me than I am of you," Carroll said.

Dec. 6 — The slain body of Mary Lou Sale, 49, is discovered at her Mass. Ave. apartment. Police are investigating.

Dec. 7 — The Enhanced 911 emergency services system begins, linking Lexington with Arlington, Bedford and Lincoln.

1995

Population - 29,905

Valuation (FY96) - \$3,408,865,800

Fire alarms - 3,331

School enrollment - 5,276

Tax rate (FY96) - \$14.01 res./\$26.52 com.

Motor vehicle accidents - 763

Dog licenses - 1,916

Building permits - 867

January — Attendance at Cary Library tops the half-million mark in 1994. With 527,159 patron visits, it is more well-attended than Boston attractions, such as the John F. Kennedy Library, the Children's Museum and the USS Constitution. Acting Director Stella Liu asks the town to study renovation of the main building, which has not been changed since 1975, as well as take a look at staffing needs.

Feb. 15 — Lexington becomes a smoke-free town, with smoking banned in all public places, defined as "any enclosed indoor area open to and used by the general public."

Feb. 26 — An early morning two-alarm fire puts occupants of 10 apartments on April Lane out in the cold. There is an estimated \$100,000 in damage but no injuries are reported.

March 14 — Lexington Savings Bank and the Waltham-based Federal Savings Bank announce they are merging. Each bank will keep its name as it becomes part of a new holding company named Affiliated Community Bancorp.

April 16 — Shortly before midnight, Paul Revere (played by State Trooper Darren Reale) rides into Lexington shouting, "The regulars are coming, the regulars are coming." A large crowd greets Revere at the Hancock-Clarke House re-enactment presented by the Historical Society and the Lexington Company of Minute Men. The performers include Hancock Church minister Peter Meek as Rev. Jonas Clarke.

April — George Gabriel, who has played Capt. John Parker for 25 consecutive years, receives an award on Patriots Day from Gardner "Skip" Hayward, captain of the Lexington Company of Minute Men.

April 23 — Lexington criminologist Edith Flynn becomes a much-quoted source as a result of being the first expert to say the Oklahoma City federal building bombing April 19 was the work of a domestic operation, not Middle East terrorists.

Life in Lexington

May 2 — A campaign begins to raise \$800 to buy a Lexington flag for the collection of municipal flags on display in the Great Hall at the State House. In less than two weeks the drive reaches \$1,200.

May — Battle Green Guide Director Emeritus Cornelius J. Cronin spots mistakes in the Lexington seal on the flag headed for the State House gallery and finds the true seal of Lexington. The accurate seal, adopted 1875 for the Centennial, includes quotation marks and an exclamation point in "What a glorious morning for America!" and a period after the word Lexington.

June 12 — Lexington voters agree to increase their own taxes by \$1.5M for the upcoming fiscal year, as 46% of those registered go to the polls and pass four ballot questions to override the limits of Prop. 2 1/2. The funds will retain the current level of school services for an increasing enrollment and help maintain open space (including cemeteries) and police and fire services.

June 13 — Starting in September, the LHS school day will be 10 minutes longer. The School Committee takes its first step in complying with the Education Reform Act of 1993 in offering elementary school students 900 hours of education and high school students 990 hours.

June — The Human Services Committee releases a report citing alcohol abuse as the number one problem facing Lexington youth. The committee spent a year talking to students at the high school, as well as social workers, parents, counselors and the police.

July 1 — Philip Lanoue, 1992 Vermont principal of the year, is the new LHS principal, replacing David Wilson who takes over as assistant superintendent for personnel and administration.

July — Students at Minuteman Science and Technology High School (formerly Minuteman Tech) build a seven-room Cape Cod-style house as part of the town's scattered sites subsidized housing program. The house, planned for a town-owned Woodland Road lot, draws controversy because a vocal minority of neighbors say it is not suitable for the narrow lot.

July 31 — Resident and veteran firefighter John Quinlan is named Lexington's new fire chief, replacing John D. Bergeron, who resigned in May.

August — A string of days with temperatures in the 90s, combined with unusually high humidity, marks an official heat wave, according to meteorologists at Weather Services Corp. of Lexington.

August — A pair of night enforcer goggles valued at \$2,800, first used in

Life in Lexington

Desert Storm, is given to the Police Dept. by the ITT Sheraton Corp.

August — The Veterans of Foreign Wars organization agrees to install its monument to Lexingtonians who served in World War II just west of the USS Lexington Grey Ghost memorial near Buckman Tavern and the Visitors Center.

September — Historic Districts Commission endorses a Field and Garden Club proposal to replace stones at the base of the Minute Man Statue with large ones and make landscaping changes. The Center Committee is reviewing options to beautify the area around the statue by the year 2000, possibly using private funding.

September — Resident Fran Hosken is a delegate to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. She had attended the three previous ones. Hosken is founder and editor of the 21-year-old "Women's International Network News," a quarterly journal.

September — The Museum of Our National Heritage is replacing a rarely used courtyard with a two-story meeting hall and exhibit area housing what will be the museum's first permanent collection in its 20-year history.

September — Fungi growing in the basement of the fire station on Bedford Street may be making firefighters sick. One firefighter who had six sinus infections in two years was transferred to the East Lexington station.

October — A disease caused by microplasma-like organisms, possibly spread by leafhoppers, is causing white ash trees to die all over town. Particularly hard hit is Shade Street, which now has significant gaps in its canopy following surgery by the DPW's tree division.

October — The Lexington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution celebrates its 100th birthday at First Parish Church, the place of its founding. Member O. Joy Sen reads the chapter history she has compiled.

Oct. 12 — After 15 years of proposals, frustrations and accidents on the stretch of Route 2A from Route 128 to Old Mass. Ave., the state Highway Dept. and town agree on a plan to make the road safer. It includes widening the road between Route 128 and Mass. Ave., installing traffic lights and developing sophisticated landscaping to improve the aesthetic nature of the road.

Oct. 16 — New DPW chief George Adams Woodbury was director of public works in Fort Knox, Ky., for three years and retired as a US Army colonel in September. He fills a vacancy left when Richard Spiers retired in May.

Life in Lexington

Nov. 9 — Barber Shop at the Depot owner Elena Gifton has been threatened with court action if she does not comply with an order issued by the Historic Districts Commission to remove her sign. While controversy has swirled around several recent HDC decisions concerning “appropriate” signs and changes in historic districts, a recent survey shows business owners, in concept, are glad this type of board exists.

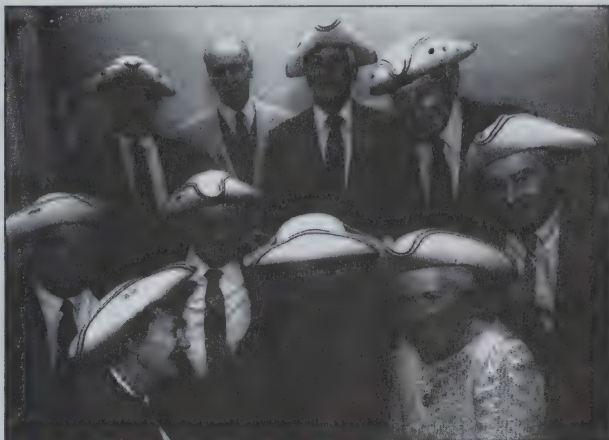
December — Joseph Nye returns from Washington to become dean of Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Nye was assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, but before that had lived in Lexington since 1965.

White Tricorn Hat tradition continues

Since 1954, the Lexington Lions Club has each year honored a man or woman who has given unselfishly of his or her time and talents to benefit the town and its people. To be eligible for the award, a nominee must be a resident and may not be a current major elective office holder. Although the award is presented by the Lions Club the judges include representatives from the Lexington Clergy Association, the Rotary Club, the Elks Lodge, the Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society.

The recipient of this highly coveted award is generally considered Lexington's citizen of the year. They are:

1954	Edwin B. Worthen
1955	Albert Burnham
1956	John Garrity
1957	Rev. Harold T. Handley
1958	William E. Maloney
1959	Dr. Fred S. Piper
1960	Thomas S. Grindle
1961	William R. Greeley
1962	Albert G. Frothingham
1963	Margaret Keefe
1964	Eleanor B. Litchfield
1965	Msgr. George W. Casey
1966	Joseph O. Rooney
1967	Donald B. Nickerson
1968	Alan G. Adams
1969	Dr. Winthrop H. Harrington
1970	Michael Vidette
1971	Louis Tropeano



Pictured at a late 1980s gathering of White Tricorn Hat recipients are, front row from left: Paul Mazerall, Ruth Morey, Lincoln P. Cole Jr., Msgr. John Keilty and Mary McDonough. Back row, from left: Richard Michelson, William Fitzgerald, Roland Greeley, Cornelius Cronin and S. Lawrence Whipple. Morey died Nov. 4, 1994. Lexington Minuteman photo

Life in Lexington

1972	George Emery
1973	Louis A. Zehner
1974	Irving H. Mabee
1975	Richard A. Michelson
1976	Ruth Morey
1977	Levi Burnell
1978	Donald Gillespie
1979	Roland Greeley
1980	William P. Fitzgerald
1981	Dr. Mary Perry
1982	George P. Wadsworth
1983	Cornelius Neil Cronin
1984	S. Lawrence Whipple
1985	Gordon Steele
1986	Msgr. John Keilty
1987	Mary McDonough
1988	Lincoln P. Cole Jr.
1989	Paul Mazerall
1990	Allan F. Kenney
1991	Jacquelyn Ward
1992	Carolyn Wilson
1993	Marion Fitzpatrick
1994	Mark Moore Jr.
1995	Lillian MacArthur
1996	Clarence Turner

Minuteman Cane recipients

Since 1988, the Council on Aging and the Lexington Minuteman newspaper each year honor a man or woman, age 80 or older, who reflects the active lifestyle of today's senior citizens, shares his or her talents and serves as an inspiration to senior citizens. The award was launched, at the suggestion of Minuteman Cane Committee Chairman David G. Williams, as an appropriate follow-up to the Boston Post Cane award, that, in 1909, began recognizing the town's oldest citizen. The award is traditionally presented at a selectmen's meeting in May, Older Americans Month.

Minuteman Cane recipients include:

- 1988 — Edith Cheever, age 83
- 1989 — Cornelius P. Cronin, age 86
- 1990 — Raymond J. Culler, age 85
- 1991 — Pearl Brenchick, age 84
- 1992 — Marion K. Fitzpatrick, age 82
- 1993 — Woodruff M. Brodhead, age 90
- 1994 — Bessie Ginsberg Baker, age 90
- 1995 — Josephine Mirabelli, age 89.
- 1996 — Frances Wortman, age 85.



Community activist Edith Cheever is the first recipient of the Minuteman Cane Award in May 1988. Lexington Minuteman photo

Lexingtonians receive Nobel, Pulitzer prizes

Lexington has its White Tricorn Hat. There are youth awards every Patriots Day for outstanding young people and the Minuteman Cane celebrates the long life of of someone who has made a significant contribution to the town. But people here are being recognized on a global scale as well.

At least three Pulitzer Prizes have been won by residents, two by Edward O. Wilson, and both in the general nonfiction category. In 1979 Wilson won the prize for "On Human Nature" and again in 1991 for "The Ants." Leonard W. Levy earned the prize in history for his book, "The Origins of the Fifth Amendment."

The Nobel Prize has been awarded to residents at least six times in the last 30 years. The winners are Konrad Bloch for medicine, 1964; Salvador Luria for physics, 1969; Sam Ting for physics, 1976; Nicolaas Bloembergen for physics, 1981; Clifford Shull for physics, 1994, and Mario Molina for chemistry, 1995.

Outstanding Youth of Lexington

Starting in 1979, the town has paid tribute each year to some of its outstanding young people with a special award. Recipients are chosen on the basis of accomplishment, service and character. Several years, additional awards were presented for extraordinary achievements.

The young people honored include:

- 1979 — Nancy Abelmann and Iamene Speliotis
- 1980 — Donna Eplett, Eugene Lee and Eugene Mewborn. Special awards to figure skating champions Sheryl Franks and Priscilla Hill.
- 1981 — Matthew Burlage, Mary Anne Conceison and Dean Madden
- 1982 — Joseph Crimmins, Anne Doherty and Rebecca Rotberg. Special award for courage to Danny Murphy .
- 1983 — Robin Alper, Adrienne Della Penna and Amy Dockser
- 1984 — Jim Hayes and Sharon Hayes (brother and sister)
- 1985 — Rachel Cohen, Kristin O'Sullivan and Christopher Velis
- 1986 — Carla Agostino and Neal Splaine
- 1987 — Sean Maloney and Margaret O'Sullivan
- 1988 — Tara Ippolito, Patrick Marshall and Carol Saunders
- 1989 — Pasquale "Pat" Agostino and Laura Ryan
- 1990 — Mark Callahan, Jennifer Lindwall and Douglas Sarno
- 1991 — Alison Fields, John Kiladis and Matthew McCormack
- 1992 — Julie Anne DeMatteo and Douglas Lucente
- 1993 — Michelle Conceison
- 1994 — Claire Galloway, Jan Groblewski and Kate Olivier
- 1995 — Alyssa Rayman-Read and Matthew Renna
- 1996 — Laura Ginns, Jennifer O'Connor and Amy Porter

Life in Lexington

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**Celebrating the 125th anniversary of
Lexington Savings Bank**

1871-1996

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